

VIA FOIAONLINE.REGULATIONS.GOV

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request: Soda Springs Processing Plant

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended ("FOIA"), from the Center for Biological Diversity ("Center"), a non-profit organization that works to secure a future for all species hovering on the brink of extinction through science, law, and creative media, and to fulfill the continuing educational goals of its membership and the general public in the process.

REQUESTED RECORDS

The Center is requesting the records outlined below from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 10:

From September 13, 2018 to the date that EPA conducts this search, the records about the Bayer (formerly Monsanto) Soda Springs Phosphorus Processing Plant Superfund site in Soda Springs, Idaho.

For this request, the term "records" refers to documents, correspondence (including inter and/or intra-agency correspondence as well as correspondence with entities or individuals outside the federal government), emails including attachments, letters, notes, recordings, telephone records, telephone notes, telephone logs, text messages, chat messages, minutes, memoranda, comments, files, presentations, consultations, biological opinions, assessments, evaluations, schedules, papers published and/or unpublished, reports, studies, photographs and other images, data (including raw data, GPS or GIS data, UTM, LiDAR, etc.), maps, and/or all other responsive records, in draft or final form.

This request is not meant to exclude any other records that, although not specially requested, are reasonably related to the subject matter of this request. If you or your office have destroyed or determine to withhold any records that could be reasonably construed to be responsive to this request, I ask that you indicate this fact and the reasons therefore in your response.

Under the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, agencies are prohibited from denying requests for information under FOIA unless the agency reasonably believes release of the information will

harm an interest that is protected by the exemption. FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (Public Law No. 114-185), codified at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A).

Should you decide to invoke a FOIA exemption, please include sufficient information for us to assess the basis for the exemption, including any interest(s) that would be harmed by release. Please include a detailed ledger which includes:

- 1. Basic factual material about each withheld record, including the originator, date, length, general subject matter, and location of each item; and
- 2. Complete explanations and justifications for the withholding, including the specific exemption(s) under which the record (or portion thereof) was withheld and a full explanation of how each exemption applies to the withheld material. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination. Your written justification may help to avoid litigation.

If you determine that portions of the records requested are exempt from disclosure, we request that you segregate the exempt portions and mail the non-exempt portions of such records to my attention at the address below within the statutory time limit. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

The Center is willing to receive records on a rolling basis.

FOIA's "frequently requested record" provision was enacted as part of the 1996 Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments, and requires all federal agencies to give "reading room" treatment to any FOIA-processed records that, "because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records." *Id.* § 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(I). Also, enacted as part of the 2016 FOIA Improvement Act, FOIA's Rule of 3 requires all federal agencies to proactively "make available for public inspection in an electronic format" "copies of records, regardless of form or format ... that have been released to any person ... and ... that have been requested 3 or more times." *Id.* § 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(II). Therefore, we respectfully request that you make available online any records that the agency determines will become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records, and records that have been requested three or more times.

Finally, agencies must preserve all the records requested herein while this FOIA is pending or under appeal. The agency shall not destroy any records while they are the subject of a pending request, appeal, or lawsuit under the FOIA. 40 C.F.R. § 2.106; see Chambers v. U.S. Dept. of Interior, 568 F.3d 998, 1004 (D.C. Cir. 2009) ("[A]n agency is not shielded from liability if it intentionally transfers or destroys a document after it has been requested under FOIA or the Privacy Act"). If any of the requested records are destroyed, the agency and responsible officials are subject to attorney fee awards and sanctions, including fines and disciplinary action. A court held an agency in contempt for "contumacious conduct" and ordered the agency to pay plaintiff's costs and fees for destroying "potentially responsive material contained on hard drives and email backup tapes." Landmark Legal Found. v. EPA, 272 F. Supp.2d 59, 62 (D.D.C. 2003); see also Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Dept. of Commerce, 384 F. Supp. 2d 163, 169 (D.D.C. 2005) (awarding attorneys' fees and costs because, among other factors, agency's "initial search was unlawful and

egregiously mishandled and ...likely responsive documents were destroyed and removed"), *aff'd in relevant part*, 470 F.3d 363, 375 (D.C. Cir. 2006) (remanding in part to recalculate attorney fees assessed). In another case, in addition to imposing a \$10,000 fine and awarding attorneys' fees and costs, the court found that an Assistant United States Attorney prematurely "destroyed records responsive to [the] FOIA request while [the FOIA] litigation was pending" and referred him to the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility. *Jefferson v. Reno*, 123 F. Supp. 2d 1, 6 (D.D.C. 2000).

FORMAT OF REQUESTED RECORDS

Under FOIA, you are obligated to provide records in a readily accessible electronic format and in the format requested. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B) ("In making any record available to a person under this paragraph, an agency shall provide the record in any form or format requested by the person if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format."). "Readily accessible" means text-searchable and OCR-formatted. *See id.* Pursuant to this requirement, we hereby request that you produce all records in an electronic format and in their native file formats. Additionally, please provide the records in a load-ready format with a CSV file index or Excel spreadsheet. If you produce files in .PDF format, then please omit any "portfolios" or "embedded files." Portfolios and embedded files within files are not readily accessible. <u>Please do not provide the records in a single, or "batched," .PDF file</u>. We appreciate the inclusion of an index.

If you should seek to withhold or redact any responsive records, we request that you: (1) identify each such record with specificity (including date, author, recipient, and parties copied); (2) explain in full the basis for withholding responsive material; and (3) provide all segregable portions of the records for which you claim a specific exemption. *Id.* § 552(b). Please correlate any redactions with specific exemptions under FOIA.

RECORD DELIVERY

We appreciate your help in expeditiously obtaining a determination on the requested records. As mandated in FOIA, we anticipate a reply within 20 working days. *Id.* § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). Failure to comply within the statutory timeframe may result in the Center taking additional steps to ensure timely receipt of the requested materials. Please provide a complete reply as expeditiously as possible. We prefer email, but you may mail copies of records to:

Ann K. Brown Center for Biological Diversity P.O. Box 11374 Portland, OR 97211 foia@biologicaldiversity.org

If you find that this request is unclear, or if the responsive records are voluminous, please email me to discuss the scope of this request.

REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

FOIA was designed to provide citizens a broad right to access government records. FOIA's basic purpose is to "open agency action to the light of public scrutiny," with a focus on the public's "right to be informed about what their government is up to." *NARA v. Favish*, 541 U.S. 157, 171 (2004) quoting *U.S. Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773-74 (1989) (internal quotation and citations omitted). In order to provide public access to this information, FOIA's fee waiver provision requires that "[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge or at a [reduced] charge," if the request satisfies the standard. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). FOIA's fee waiver requirement is "liberally construed." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1310 (D.C. Cir. 2003); *Forest Guardians v. U.S. Dept. of Interior*, 416 F.3d 1173, 1178 (10th Cir. 2005).

The 1986 fee waiver amendments were designed specifically to provide non-profit organizations such as the Center access to government records without the payment of fees. Indeed, FOIA's fee waiver provision was intended "to prevent government agencies from using high fees to discourage certain types of requesters and requests," which are "consistently associated with requests from journalists, scholars, and *non-profit public interest groups.*" *Ettlinger v. FBI*, 596 F. Supp. 867, 872 (D. Mass. 1984) (emphasis added). As one Senator stated, "[a]gencies should not be allowed to use fees as an offensive weapon against requesters seeking access to Government information ... " 132 Cong. Rec. S. 14298 (statement of Senator Leahy).

I. The Center Qualifies for a Fee Waiver.

Under FOIA, a party is entitled to a fee waiver when "disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the [Federal] government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). EPA's regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l)(1)-(3) establish the same standard.

Thus, EPA must consider six factors to determine whether a request is in the public interest: (1) whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the Federal government," (2) whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) whether the disclosure "will contribute to public understanding" of a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject, (4) whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities. *Id.* § 2.107(1)(2), (5) whether a commercial interest exists and its magnitude, and (6) the primary interest in disclosure. As shown below, the Center meets each of these factors.

A. The Subject of This Request Concerns "The Operations and Activities of the Government."

The subject matter of this request concerns the operations and activities of the EPA. This request asks for: from September 13, 2018 to the date that EPA conducts this search, the records about the Bayer (formerly Monsanto) Soda Springs Phosphorus Processing Plant Superfund site in Soda Springs, Idaho.

This FOIA will provide the Center and the public with crucial insight into the significant environmental impact caused by the Soda Springs Processing Plant. It is clear that a federal agency's oversight of a Superfund site threatening public health is a specific and identifiable activity of the government, and in this case it is the executive branch agency of EPA. *Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1313 ("[R]easonable specificity is all that FOIA requires with regard to this factor") (internal quotations omitted). Thus, the Center meets this factor.

B. <u>Disclosure is "Likely to Contribute" to an Understanding of Government Operations</u> or Activities.

The requested records are meaningfully informative about government operations or activities and will contribute to an increased understanding of those operations and activities by the public.

Disclosure of the requested records will allow the Center to convey to the public information about the environmental harm that the Soda Springs Processing Plant poses. In 1990, the site was listed on the national priorities list due to concern that groundwater contaminated with selenium, cadmium, sulfates, and fluoride was flowing south from the property towards the town of Soda Springs. Subsequent investigation also identified potential exposures to employees and community members form radionuclides and metals (e.g. arsenic and beryllium). In September of 2018, EPA found that groundwater contamination at the Soda Springs Plant is contributing to surface water contamination in several streams and creeks that exceed Idaho water quality standards. Attachment A (Fourth Five-Year Review Report for Monsanto Chemical Co. Soda Springs Phosphorous Plant Superfund Site). At that time, EPA stated that remediation of selenium contamination has been slower than expected, and that groundwater standards "will not be achieved in the foreseeable future." Id. Responsive records will enhance the public's understanding of the continued threat to human health, and the work that EPA has done to remediate those impacts. Once the information is made available, the Center will analyze it and present it to its over 1.7 million members and online activists and the general public in a manner that will meaningfully enhance the public's understanding of this topic.

Thus, the requested records are likely to contribute to an understanding of EPA's operations and activities.

C. <u>Disclosure of the Requested Records Will Contribute to a Reasonably Broad</u>

<u>Audience of Interested Persons' Understanding of the EPA's Remediation Efforts</u>

<u>Concerning the Soda Springs Processing Plant.</u>

The requested records will contribute to public understanding of whether EPA's oversight of this Superfund site is consistent with its mission "to protect human health and the environment" [emphasis added]. As explained above, the records will contribute to public understanding of this topic.

Activities of EPA generally, and specifically what efforts it has made to rectify the Superfund site, are areas of interest to a reasonably broad segment of the public. The Center will use the

¹ EPA, *Our Mission and What We Do*, https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do (last visited May 12, 2021).

information it obtains from the disclosed records to educate the public at large about this topic. *See W. Watersheds Proj. v. Brown*, 318 F. Supp.2d 1036, 1040 (D. Idaho 2004) (finding that "WWP adequately specified the public interest to be served, that is, educating the public about the ecological conditions of the land managed by the BLM and also how ... management strategies employed by the BLM may adversely affect the environment").

Through the Center's synthesis and dissemination (by means discussed in Section II, below), disclosure of information contained in and gleaned from the requested records will contribute to a broad audience of persons who are interested in the subject matter. *Ettlinger v. FBI*, 596 F. Supp. at 876 (benefit to a population group of some size distinct from the requester alone is sufficient); *Carney v. Dept. of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 815 (2d Cir. 1994), *cert. denied*, 513 U.S. 823 (1994) (applying "public" to require a sufficient "breadth of benefit" beyond the requester's own interests); *Cmty. Legal Servs. v. Dep't of Hous. & Urban Dev.*, 405 F. Supp.2d 553, 557 (E.D. Pa. 2005) (in granting fee waiver to community legal group, court noted that while the requester's "work by its nature is unlikely to reach a very general audience," "there is a segment of the public that is interested in its work").

Indeed, the public does not currently have an ability to easily evaluate the requested records, which are not currently in the public domain. *See Cmty. Legal Servs.*, 405 F. Supp.2d at 560 (because requested records "clarify important facts" about agency policy, "the CLS request would likely shed light on information that is new to the interested public."). As the Ninth Circuit observed in *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1286 (9th Cir. 1987), "[FOIA] legislative history suggests that information [has more potential to contribute to public understanding] to the degree that the information is new and supports public oversight of agency operations…."^{2[1]}

Disclosure of these records is not only "likely to contribute," but is certain to contribute, to the public's understanding of EPA's actions concerning the Soda Springs Processing Plant. The public is always well served when it knows how the government conducts its activities, particularly matters touching on legal questions. Hence, there can be no dispute that disclosure of the requested records to the public will educate the public about this topic.

II. <u>Disclosure is Likely to Contribute Significantly to Public Understanding of Government Operations or Activities.</u>

The Center is not requesting these records merely for their intrinsic informational value. Disclosure of the requested records will significantly enhance the public's understanding of whether EPA has made remediation efforts at this Superfund site, as compared to the level of public understanding that exists prior to the disclosure. Indeed, public understanding will be *significantly* increased as a result of disclosure because the requested records will help reveal more about this subject matter.

² In this connection, it is immaterial whether any portion of the Center's request may currently be in the public domain because the Center requests considerably more than any piece of information that may currently be available to other individuals. *See Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1315.

The records are also certain to shed light on EPA's compliance with its own mission and purpose. Such public oversight of agency action is vital to our democratic system and clearly envisioned by the drafters of the FOIA. Thus, the Center meets this factor as well.

III. Obtaining the Requested Records is of No Commercial Interest to the Center.

Access to government records, disclosure forms, and similar materials through FOIA requests is essential to the Center's role of educating the general public. Founded in 1994, the Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization (EIN: 27-3943866) with more than over 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered and threatened species and wild places. The Center has no commercial interest and will realize no commercial benefit from the release of the requested records.

IV. The Center's Primary Interest in Disclosure is the Public Interest.

As stated above, the Center has no commercial interest that would be furthered by disclosure. Although even if it did have an interest, the public interest would far outweigh any pecuniary interest.

The Center is a non-profit organization that informs, educates, and counsels the public regarding environmental issues, policies, and laws relating to environmental issues. The Center has been substantially involved in the activities of numerous government agencies for over 30 years, and has consistently displayed its ability to disseminate information granted to it through FOIA.

In consistently granting the Center's fee waivers, agencies have recognized: (1) that the information requested by the Center contributes significantly to the public's understanding of the government's operations or activities; (2) that the information enhances the public's understanding to a greater degree than currently exists; (3) that the Center possesses the expertise to explain the requested information to the public; (4) that the Center possesses the ability to disseminate the requested information to the general public; (5) and that the news media recognizes the Center as an established expert in the field of imperiled species, biodiversity, and impacts on protected species. The Center's track record of active participation in oversight of governmental activities and decision making, and its consistent contribution to the public's understanding of those activities as compared to the level of public understanding prior to disclosure are well established.

The Center's work appears in over 5,000 news stories online and in print, radio, and TV per month, including regular reporting in such important outlets as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *Los Angeles Times*. Many media outlets have reported on the threat that Superfund sites pose to environmental and human health utilizing information obtained by the Center from federal agencies including EPA. In 2020, almost three million people visited the Center's extensive website, viewing pages more than 5.3 million times. The Center sends out more than 500 action alerts per year to more than 1.7 million members and supporters. Three times a year, the Center sends printed newsletters to more than 84,300 members. More than 579,000 people follow the Center on Facebook, and there are regular postings regarding environmental protection. The Center also regularly tweets to more than 98,900 followers on

Twitter. The Center intends to use any or all of these far-reaching media outlets to share information obtained as a result of this request with the public.

Public oversight and enhanced understanding of the EPA's duties is absolutely necessary. In determining whether disclosure of requested information will contribute significantly to public understanding, a guiding test is whether the requester will disseminate the information to a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. *Carney*, 19 F.3d 807. The Center need not show how it intends to distribute the information, because "[n]othing in FOIA, the [agency] regulation, or our case law require[s] such pointless specificity." *Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1314. It is sufficient for the Center to show how it distributes information to the public generally. *Id*.

V. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Center qualifies for a full fee waiver. We hope that EPA will immediately grant this fee waiver request and begin to search and disclose the requested records without any unnecessary delays.

If you have any questions, please contact me at foia@biologicaldiversity.org. All records and any related correspondence should be sent to my attention at the address below.

Sincerely,

Ann K. Brown

Open Government Coordinator

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

P.O. Box 11374

Portland, OR 97211-0374 foia@biologicaldiversity.org

Attachment

Attachment A (Fourth Five-Year Review Report for Monsanto Chemical Co. Soda Springs Phosphorous Plant Superfund Site)

Attachment A

FOURTH FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT FOR MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO. (SODA SPRINGS PHOSPHOROUS PLANT) SUPERFUND SITE CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO





Prepared for: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Seattle, Washington

Sheryl Bilbrey, Director

Office of Environmental Cleanup

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

μg/L microgram per Liter

ARAR Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

cfs cubic feet per second
CH2M CH2M HILL, Inc.
City City of Soda Springs
COC contaminant of concern
CSM Conceptual Site Model

DEQ Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESD Explanation of Significant Differences

FYR Five-Year Review
Golder Golder Associates, Inc.
IC Institutional Control
IDAPA Idaho Administrative Code

ISM Incremental Sampling Methodology KMCC Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation

LBZ Lower Basalt Zone

MCL maximum contaminant level

mg/L milligrams per liter

MNA Monitored Natural Attenuation
NCP National Contingency Plan
NPL National Priorities List
O&M operation and maintenance
POC point of compliance

PRP potentially responsible parties
RAO Remedial Action Objectives

RG remedial goals

RI/FS Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

ROD Record of Decision

SOP standard operating procedure

SRI Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report

UBZ Upper Basalt Zone
UFS underflow solids
WQS water quality standards

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a five-year review (FYR) is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy to determine if the remedy is, and will continue to be, protective of human health and the environment. The methods, findings, and conclusions of reviews are documented in FYR reports such as this one. In addition, FYR reports identify issues found during the review, if any, and document recommendations to address them.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared this FYR pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 121 (42 U.S.C § 9621), consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Section 300.430(f)(4)(ii)) and considering EPA policy.

This statutory review is the fourth FYR for the Monsanto Chemical Corporation Superfund Site (Site), and its completion was triggered by the completion date of the previous FYR in 2013. FYRs are required for this Site because hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remain at the Site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is a support agency for this Site and was involved in the development of this report. CH2M HILL, Inc. (CH2M) provided support to EPA in the data analysis and overall evaluation of the remedy for this FYR.

This FYR was led by Kathryn Cerise at EPA Region 10, with assistance from the CH2M technical team including Greg Warren/Geologist, Jeff Schut/Risk Assessor, Allan Erickson/Hydrogeologist, and Margaret O'Hare/Senior Technical Consultant. Monsanto was notified of the initiation of the FYR, which began in May 2018.

Site Background

The Site is located in Caribou County, Idaho, approximately 1 mile north of the City of Soda Springs (City) (Figure 1) (all figures are included at the end of this report). Soda Springs has a population of 3,058 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). Land use within the phosphorous plant boundary is industrial. The adjacent land to the north, west, and south of the phosphorous plant is primarily agricultural, including cultivation and pasture. East and southeast of the plant along Hwy 34 is a light and heavy industrial zone. Land use within the city limits is mostly residential with some commercial, agriculture, and light industrial zones.

Monsanto purchased the property in 1952 to use local phosphate-rich ore to manufacture elemental phosphorus. The Site comprises approximately 800 total acres that include the 540-acre operating area and an additional approximate 260 acres of buffer area owned partly by Monsanto and partly by various farmers. The buffer area contains contaminants of concern (COC) in offsite surface soils that originated from Site operations and is therefore part of the Site (defined by the extent of contamination). The Site is subject to Institutional Controls (IC) required by the 1997 Record of Decision (ROD) (USEPA, 1997) and 1998 Consent Decree. ICs are nonengineered instruments (for example, administrative and legal controls) that help to minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a remedy. The industrial chemical manufacturing facility originally owned by Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (KMCC) is directly east of the Site, across State Route 34.

The Site is located at approximately 6,000 feet above mean sea level in elevation in a broad, relatively flat valley. The valley is bordered by the Blackfoot Lava Field to the north, the Soda Hills on the west, and the Aspen Range on the east. Surface drainage in the valley is predominantly to the south. The closest surface water body is Soda Creek, located approximately 2,000 feet west of the facility. Soda Creek flows south and enters Alexander Reservoir, south and west of the City. The major river in the vicinity is the Bear River, located approximately 2 miles south southwest of the Site. The Bear River also flows into Alexander Reservoir.

The regional groundwater flow is generally north to south, with a more westerly component under Soda Springs. Natural springs are important hydrologic features of the basin, and emerge at several locations to the ground surface as result of discharge from the underlying groundwater aquifer. Groundwater is the main source of drinking water in the area, with Formation Spring and Ledger Spring complex serving as the sources of drinking water for the City. The Monsanto Plant has constructed four production wells to supply process water to the plant. Additionally, domestic water wells may be located in the Site vicinity.

Groundwater is found within two primary hydrostratigraphic zones beneath the Site, known as the Upper Basalt Zone (UBZ) and the Lower Basalt Zone (LBZ). Each of the two zones has been broken down into four subsections based on natural hydrogeological controls such as fault boundaries, and also production well pumping that alters groundwater flow, and groundwater quality (UBZ-1 through 4 and LBZ-1 through 4). Groundwater contamination plumes are primarily within the UBZ. The UBZ-1 and UBZ-2 discharge to springs and surface water south and southwest of the plant boundary (Figure 2).

The ROD concluded that no floodplain zones, endangered species, or historical or archeological sites are known to exist in the immediate vicinity of the Site. The Canada lynx is the only species on the threatened list for Caribou County (IDFG, 2018), although habitat at or surrounding the Site is not suitable to support lynx.

Monsanto has approximately 360 employees and approximately 100 contract employees working at the facility. Land use within the fenced operating area was agricultural before the plant was built; land use was designated industrial once the plant was built and is expected to remain industrial for the reasonably anticipated future.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW SUMMARY FORM

SITE IDENTIFICATION								
Site Name: Monsanto Che	Site Name: Monsanto Chemical Co. (Soda Springs Plant)							
EPA ID: IDD08183	EPA ID: IDD081830994							
Region: 10	State: ID	City/County: Soda Springs/Caribou						
		SITE STATUS						
NPL Status: Final								
Multiple OUs? No	Has Yes	the site achieved construction completion?						
		REVIEW STATUS						
Lead agency: EPA								
Author name: Kathryn Ce	rise							
Author affiliation: EPA R	egion 10							
Review period: 5/29/2018	- 8/19/2018							
Date of site inspection: 6/0	5/2018							
Type of review: Statutory	Type of review: Statutory							
Review number: 4	Review number: 4							
Triggering action date: 9/	10/2013							
Due date (five years after	triggering action	date): 9/10/2018						

II. RESPONSE ACTION SUMMARY

The following sections provide a summary of the response actions conducted at the Site.

Basis for Taking Action

The basis for taking action was the complaint from a landowner immediately south of the Site that livestock drinking water from several nearby springs experienced problems related to excess fluoride exposure. In 1984, Monsanto hired Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder) to characterize groundwater impacts from past and current operations.

The pre-CERCLA investigation showed that groundwater under the Site contained elevated levels of fluoride, cadmium, selenium, and sulfate in monitoring and production wells at the Site. As a result of potential human health and environmental exposures from contaminated groundwater flowing south from the Site towards Soda Springs, and also because of documented environmental and likely human exposures to excess fluoride from at least one local well, EPA listed the Site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990.

Pursuant to a March 19, 1991, Administrative Order on Consent issued by EPA, Monsanto completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under EPA oversight between March 1991 and April 1996. The Remedial Investigation included groundwater, soil, source materials, surface water, air, biota, and sediments.

The list of potential exposure concerns identified during the RI/FS included the following:

- Radionuclide (Radium-226) exposures from slag and source materials in the operating area, primarily to Monsanto employees
- Potential residential exposures to metals (arsenic and beryllium) and radionuclides in groundwater, soil, and air immediately outside the operating area if future residential development were not controlled, specifically along the southern and northern Monsanto plant fencelines
- Potential exposures to other hazardous substances in soil inside the operating area to current and future workers

The final ecological assessment concluded that ecological impacts were unlikely and that ecological risk-based cleanup levels should not be used to set remediation goals, however, potential aquatic effects in Soda Creek were noted.

Response Actions

Monsanto performed Site improvements and initial response actions to reduce the threats to groundwater prior to EPA signing a ROD in 1997. These included the following (Golder, 2008):

- August 1985. Removal of the Old Hydroclarifier suspected of impacting groundwater and replacement with a new unit.
- 1986. Replaced four underground fuel storage tanks with aboveground tanks equipped with concrete sumps.
- 1987. Abandoned four of the original monitoring wells (TW-3, 4, 5, and 6) that created hydraulic connection between upper and lower aquifers.
- 1983 to 1988. Took the old Underflow Solids (UFS) Ponds out of service, removed contaminated soil, backfilled, then filled with molten slag and sealed with a bentonite cap.
- 1988. Closed and excavated the Northwest Pond and sealed the bottom with bentonite. This area is permitted by DEQ to receive plant sanitary solid waste.
- 1985 to 1989. Installed recovery wells around the Old Hydroclarifier and used these to intercept contaminated groundwater. The groundwater was pumped into the New Hydroclarifier between 1985 and 1989. Pumping ceased in the spring of 1989 and was never resumed.
- 1993. Connected plant sewage evaporation ponds to municipal wastewater system.
- 1995. Began pilot scale projects and engineering controls to reduce fugitive dust from on-site source piles.
- 2012. In response to recommendations made in the third FYR, Monsanto conducted a Phase I source area characterization to identify if sources of COCs remained buried in ponds and could be affecting MNA progress (Golder, 2013).

EPA signed a ROD for the Site on April 30, 1997. The ROD identified the potential COCs for soil and sediment as well as COCs for groundwater based on exceedances of EPA risk-screening criteria, and documented the selected remedy for environmental media affected by operations at the plant (EPA, 1997). The remedy addressed the multiple pathways of concern: groundwater, soils, and source piles, air, surface water, and sediments. The ultimate goal is to eliminate groundwater contamination sources and restore, through natural attenuation (within 5 to 30 years), the groundwater aquifers affected by past releases from the Site.

Remedial Action Objectives

The remedial action objectives (RAO) for the Site as specified in the ROD (EPA, 1997) are as follows:

- Prevent human ingestion of, inhalation of, or direct contact with groundwater at levels exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) defined under the Safe Drinking Water Act for cadmium, fluoride, nitrate, and selenium, or risk-based concentrations for manganese
- Prevent external exposure to radionuclides in soils at levels that pose cumulative estimated risks above 3 x 10-4, corresponding to a dose equivalent of approximately 15 millirems per year.
- Prevent the ingestion or inhalation of soils containing radionuclides at levels posing cumulative estimated risks exceeding 3 x 10-4, or metals (arsenic, beryllium) at levels posing cumulative estimated carcinogenic risks exceeding 1 x 10-5.

Remedy Components

The remedy selected in the ROD addressed six media at the Site: groundwater, offsite soils, source piles, air, sediments, and surface water.

Groundwater

The selected remedy for groundwater is Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) with ICs to prevent use of contaminated groundwater for drinking purposes, until such time as cadmium, fluoride, selenium, nitrate, and manganese concentrations in groundwater decline to a level lower than the MCLs or risk-based concentrations for those substances. Example ICs include legally enforceable prohibition on drinking water wells in the affected area to prevent human exposure. In addition, it was believed that the old ponds suspected as source areas (UFS Pond and Northwest Pond) had been closed and lined with impermeable material to eliminate ongoing COC sources which would allow natural attenuation to occur.

Except for the annual monitoring of groundwater, springs and the discharge outfall, no further action was deemed necessary because (at the time) there were no drinking water users of the affected groundwater and because the combination of past remediation actions and natural attenuation was predicted to restore groundwater to levels that would allow for unrestricted use within 30 years. The ROD states "if groundwater recovery appears to significantly differ from model projections, the model and the need for additional groundwater remedial actions should be re-evaluated."

The ROD established groundwater remedial goals (RG) for the COCs. These are the MCLs for cadmium, fluoride, nitrate, and selenium, and a risk-based concentration for manganese. Table 1 provides a summary of the groundwater COCs and RGs. The ROD also established points of compliance (POC) for groundwater RG monitoring. The POCs generally downgradient and are highlighted in yellow on Figures 2 and 3.

Table 1. Concentrations of COCs and Remedial Goals for Groundwater and Soil

сос	Groundwater RG (mg/L)	Regulatory Source	Highest Concentration from RI/FS to Present (mg/L), Year, Location ^a	June 2017 Highest Concentration (mg/L) (Percent Decrease)
Cadmium	0.005	MCL	70.4, 1985, TW-40	2.67 (-96)
Fluoride	4	MCL	16, 1997, TW-37	9.55 (-40)
Nitrate as NO ₃ /Nitrate as N	44/10	MCL	20.7, 2006, TW-20	19.9 (-4)
Selenium	0.05	MCL	0.935, 1993, TW-37	0.220 (-76)

coc	Groundwater RG (mg/L)	Regulatory Source	Highest Concentration from RI/FS to Present (mg/L), Year, Location ^a	June 2017 Highest Concentration (mg/L) (Percent Decrease)
Manganese	0.18	Risk-Based Concentration	3.17, 2013, TW-17	3.08 (-3)
	Soil RG (pCi/g)			
Radium-226	3.7	Risk-Based Concentration		

Note:

^a Highest concentrations listed are based on 2017 Water Quality Report, Table 14 (Golder, 2018a)

mg/L = milligram per Liter

pCi/g = picoCuries per gram

Surface Water

The remedy for surface water is NFA, and no surface water RGs were established under the ROD. However, Soda Creek was identified as a POC location because the plants effluent is discharged into Soda Creek. Several sample locations have been established to monitor and evaluate discharges of groundwater to surface water, and effects of discharges on surface water quality.

When the ROD was finalized in 1997, there was no aquatic surface water quality standard for selenium in effect. In 2003, the State of Idaho established an aquatic chronic standard for selenium of 0.005 mg/L. (IDAPA 58.01.02.210).

Source Piles

The selected remedy for source piles (on-plant solid waste piles that consist of underflow solids and tailings) and materials within the plant is No Further Action, because Monsanto's past cleanup actions, institutional and engineering controls (fugitive dust emissions) have reduced potential sources of worker exposure and contaminant migration to surrounding soils to acceptable levels. However, the source piles are comprised of fine-grained soil-like particles that have migrated off-site via wind transport and impacted surrounding soils, e.g. the "offsite soils". Therefore, the offsite soils have ICs and are required to be sampled every five years (see following section).

Offsite Soils

The solid waste on-site piles have in the past been sources of contaminant migration to off-Plant soils. The remedy for offsite soils is Institutional Controls (IC) in the form of land use restrictions placed in deeds. ROD specifies the offsite soil sampling be conducted at least every 5 years to determine the concentration of COCs for that year, and to verify that engineering controls used for the source piles are effectively preventing spread of soils from the source piles, and/or recontamination of offsite soils and that the remedy remains protective.

The Remedial Goal for offsite soils is 3.7 picocuries per gram for Radium-226 (Table 1). Upon receipt of results from the FYR offsite soil sampling programs, a title search or equivalent will be conducted to verify that any property parcels with soil concentration greater than the RG for offsite soils are under IC, if applicable. If such properties are present that are not covered by existing ICs, then action will be taken to implement the selected soil remedy for that property. The ROD states that the selected remedy for offsite soils containing Radium-226 above the RG is an election of the affected property owners to have their property either (1) cleaned via excavation, containment, and replacement of contaminated soils (none of the property owners elected this option), or (2) rendered under an IC in the form of an environmental easement placed in their deed to prevent residential uses.

<u>Air</u>

The ROD concluded that No Further Action (NFA) was necessary for air emissions under CERCLA.

Sediments

The ROD concluded that No Further Action (NFA) was necessary for sediments. However, the ROD specified that sediments should be sampled in Soda Creek in support of each FYR to confirm whether COC concentrations in the sediments are decreasing (as predicted), increasing, or remaining stable. Thus, sediment sampling in Soda

Creek is required every 5 years. The ROD states: "If sediment concentrations are shown to be increasing or evidence of health impacts are identified, the protectiveness of the remedy should be re-evaluated."

Status of Implementation

Remedial actions include groundwater, surface water, sediment, and off-site soil monitoring.

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring include:

- Execution of annual groundwater, springs, and Soda Creek surface water quality sampling to assess the extent of contamination relative to applicable regulatory levels, remediation goals, and groundwater plume boundaries with respect to RGs selected for the Site, RAOs, and groundwater MNA modeling projections.
- Assessment of contaminant trends in groundwater and surface water to determine if COC levels are declining at an acceptable rate. As stated in the ROD, evaluate the need for additional groundwater modeling and remedial actions "if actual groundwater recovery appears to significantly differ from model projections".
- Ensure ICs remain in place and are effective.

Sediment Sampling includes:

• Collection of sediment samples every 5 years using Incremental Sampling Methodology (ISM) to obtain representative samples over a given reach of the creek to support each FYR assessment of whether sediment contaminant concentrations are stable or declining as predicted.

Off-Site Soil Sampling includes:

- Because the fine-grained material in the on-site source piles are known to have migrated to offsite soils via wind transport, soil sampling is conducted every five years on surrounding off-site soils to measure concentrations of COCs in order to verify that source control [of the on-site source piles] is effectively preventing the further spread of site contaminants. Monsanto continues to test engineering controls such as plot-testing cover materials to replant the source piles.
- Confirming that ICs are in place for all soil grids surrounding the Site that contain Radium-226 concentrations greater than the remediation goal of 3.7 picocuries per gram and 15 millirems per year for radionuclides, based on a statistically valid sampling program. Evaluate need to implement additional ICs or removal actions and identify possible recontamination of soils from on-site source piles or spread to additional areas through ground disturbance and airborne dispersal.

Maintenance and Operation include:

Verifying that facility operations continue to be in compliance with environmental and worker health and
safety requirements so that potential releases and exposures remain adequately controlled, and the remedy
remains effective. Evaluate COC concentrations in off-site soils to ensure that engineering controls on the
source piles (on-site soils) are preventing spread to offsite soils.

Table 2. Summary of Planned and/or Implemented ICs

Media, engineered controls, and areas that do not support Unlimited Use and Unrestricted Exposure based on current conditions	ICs Needed	ICs called for in Decision Documents	Impacted Parcels	IC Objectives	Title of IC Instrument Implemented and Date (or planned)
Soils	YES	YES	Offsite Soils surrounding Monsanto Plant (see Figure 26)	Prevent Ingestion and inhalation of radionuclides	Environmental Protection Easements and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants; 1998, 1999, and 2002.

Media, engineered controls, and areas that do not support Unlimited Use and Unrestricted Exposure based on current conditions	ICs Needed	ICs called for in Decision Documents	Impacted Parcels	IC Objectives	Title of IC Instrument Implemented and Date (or planned)
Groundwater	YES	YES	Domestic Wells potentially located in Soda Springs	Prevent ingestion and use of contaminated groundwater for drinking purposes until groundwater recovers by enacting legally enforceable prohibitions on drinking water	Not implemented.

III. PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST REVIEW

This section includes the protectiveness determinations and statements from the last five-year review as well as the recommendations from the last five-year review and the current status of those recommendations. The remedy for the Site was identified as **not protective** during the third FYR (USEPA, 2013) conducted in 2013. That protectiveness statement is as follows:

Table 3. Protectiveness Determinations/Statement from the 2013 FYR

OU#	Protectiveness Determination	Protectiveness Statement
Sitewide	Not Protective	The remedy for the Monsanto Site is currently not protective because concentrations of COCs in groundwater remain above MCLs and RGs, contaminated groundwater plumes above the MCLs and RGs extend beyond the IC boundaries, the contamination in groundwater plumes has not been fully characterized which poses risks to domestic wells downgradient of the Monsanto Site, and monitoring trends indicate that the groundwater performance standards will not be met in the foreseeable future. Contaminated groundwater appears to be impacting surface water and sediment in nearby creeks. In addition, sources on the Monsanto facility may be contributing to groundwater contamination.

Table 4 includes the issues, recommendations, and status of recommendations from the third FYR. Table 4 lists also additional work conducted to fill data gaps identified during annual review of submittals (EPA 2017), testing aquifer properties, and selenium removal pilot testing.

Table 4. Status of Recommendations from the Third FYR

Issue	Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions	Current Status	Current Implementation Status Description	Completion Date (if applicable)
Concentrations of COCs in groundwater and surface water remain above RGs/MCLs, exceed RGs/MCLs beyond the Monsanto property boundary, nature and extent of groundwater plume(s) of site-related COCs are not well defined, and trends indicate that groundwater RGs will not be met in the 5- to 30-year time frame anticipated in the ROD.	Define the full nature and extent of groundwater contamination by identified COCs by implementing a supplemental focused Remedial Investigation. When that Remedial Investigation is completed, execute a supplemental focused Feasibility Study to evaluate the current remedy and the need to add additional remedial actions to achieve RAOs. If necessary execute a ROD amendment or ESD to achieve RAOs. Continue monitoring groundwater and surface water annually to observe changes in COC concentrations.	Ongoing	Focused RI in progress. This has included, through 2018: Monsanto installed wells at southwest property line in 2018 to define the full southwestern extent of selenium plume. Monsanto is presently (2017 to 2018) conducting pumping tests and treatability pilot studies to evaluate capture of plume near the plant boundary and selenium removal from effluent. This is anticipated to continue Monsanto installed monitoring wells in 2018 to evaluate groundwater COCs east of monitoring wells and evaluate groundwater capture zone and potential migration to UBZ-3. Monsanto also installed wells on the east side of Primary Fault to evaluate hydraulic boundary conditions near groundwater pumping capture zone. Currently Monsanto is evaluating data for draft Remedial Investigation report. Awaiting submittal of data to EPA.	In Progress
Registered and possibly unregistered domestic and irrigation wells downgradient of the Monsanto Site may be exposed to the COCs that exceed the RGs.	Investigate current usage of registered/unregistered domestic wells downgradient of the Monsanto Site and the relationship to the fully defined groundwater plume(s). Develop an institutional control plan for areas where groundwater COCs have migrated beyond current southern property boundary.	Completed	Completed April 2015 – Monsanto conducted an offsite well survey and located four domestic wells and one spring in a residential basement. Sample results from these wells and spring indicated that concentrations of all constituents of concern were below the respective Monsanto remediation goals. No progress on IC plan.	Well Survey Completed on April 31, 2015 (Monsanto, 2015)

Issue	Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions	Current Status	Current Implementation Status Description	Completion Date (if applicable)
Potential sources of COCs to groundwater remain in the old UFS Ponds, UFS Piles, Northwest Pond, and Old Hydroclarifier Areas.	Conduct the next phase of the Source Characterization to evaluate current sources and update the conceptual site model to evaluate if current remedies are appropriate.	Complete	Monsanto investigated potential source areas by installing wells, excavating test pits, and conducting leaching and mobility analyses during 2013 through 2015. This investigation positively identified remaining sources of COCs in the plant boundaries with potential to release into groundwater. Therefore, the updated CSM indicates that the assumptions made in the current remedy are not appropriate.	Source Area Report submitted in 2016 (Golder, 2016)
Concentrations of contaminants in sediments in Soda Creek are elevated downstream of facility in the flow-diverted reaches.	Continued monitoring of sediments to compare results against new sampling protocol and determine if remedial action may be needed.	Complete	Sediment sampling has been conducted every 5 years as part of the FYR. For this fourth FYR, sampling was performed in July 2017. The 2017 sampling was the second event using ISM. In this FYR report, results are compared against the 2012 sample results. The third ISM sample will be conducted in 2022, after which trends in concentrations may be observed.	Complete (Golder 2018b)

IV. FIVE-YEAR REVIEW PROCESS

Community Notification, Involvement & Site Interviews

EPA published a notice announcing the performance FYR for the Site in the *Caribou County Sun* on June 7, 2018. This announcement stated there was a five-year review underway, and invited the public to submit any comments to the EPA project manager. As of the date of this report, no comments from the community had been received. A copy of the public notice is included as Appendix B to this FYR report.

CH2M HILL interviewed the Monsanto O&M project manager as part of the FYR process. The interview was conducted to identify Monsanto Site conditions and issues, successes or problems related to the remedy, and status of O&M activities that has occurred since the third FYR.

The following individual was interviewed:

1. Jason Maughan, Regulatory Specialist, Monsanto Chemical Company, Soda Springs, Idaho.

Mr. Maughan is Monsanto's CERCLA/O&M Project Manager for the Soda Springs facility. He indicated that EPA, its contractors, and also Monsanto's contractors have fulfilled their duties, and kept him informed and supplied him with appropriate levels of information regarding Monsanto Site activities. He also stated that the remedial actions coincide with the objectives of Monsanto – soil migration from on-site source piles is being minimized through engineering controls and plot testing, off-site soil ICs are in place and additional remedial actions have been identified that will move the overall project in compliance with CERCLA requirements. Some small-scale Monsanto Site-related projects are being constructed unrelated to CERCLA activities, but these will not impact the future Monsanto Site remedial activities. Monsanto is conducting the additional Focused RI based on recommendations from last FYR, including constructing additional wells, characterizing source areas, and conducting ongoing aquifer pump testing to evaluate groundwater capture and water quality changes. Several supplemental RI activities have been completed, and some are ongoing such as the pumping test/groundwater capture evaluation. These data will steer decisions for a focused Feasibility Study.

Data Review

Groundwater, surface water, soils, and sediment data trends pertinent to this FYR period are discussed in the following text. COCs for the Site include cadmium, fluoride, nitrate, manganese, and selenium. Other constituents that are monitored in the groundwater include chloride, molybdenum, and sulfate.

Table 1 lists the ROD RGs for groundwater. No surface water RGs were established under the ROD. However, a State of Idaho Cold Water Standard for selenium was established in 2003 by reference to the National Toxics Rule. Figures 2 and 3 show the locations of groundwater monitoring wells, groundwater flow directions, springs, and surface water sampling locations. Discussions of individual COC trends in each medium are provided in the following sections. Figures and tables, adapted from data reports prepared by Golder for Monsanto are included to illustrate data trends.

Groundwater Quality

In accordance with the 1997 ROD (USEPA, 1997), "If groundwater recovery appears to significantly differ from model(ed) projections, the model and the need for additional groundwater remedial actions should be re-evaluated."

Overall, monitoring results show that groundwater concentrations of COCs have decreased at most monitoring locations in the time since implementation of the source control actions performed by Monsanto in the mid-1980s and 1990s. However, over the last decade in some wells the downward trends have stabilized at concentrations above RGs, and, at other locations, concentrations of COCs have been increasing near and downgradient of source areas during the last review period. COCs are thus not declining at rates predicted during the ROD preparation. The selenium plume has expanded above RGs at the southern IC boundary.

Based on long-term monitoring, COC concentrations in the deeper LBZ aquifers are generally stable and below RGs, which indicates that the deeper groundwater is currently not significantly impacted by source areas at the Site. However, COC concentrations in the shallow UBZ aquifers exhibit exceedances of the RGs. Therefore, the following discussion is limited to potential impacts to the UBZ aquifers based on data collected from monitoring

wells located in UBZ-1, UBZ-2, UBZ-3, and UBZ-4. Data for COC concentrations and trends are available through 2017.

Source Area Wells, COC Distribution

UBZ-1 and 2 Source Areas

The suspected primary source areas for the UBZ-1 and 2 groundwater plumes are the old UFS and Tailings Ponds, on the west-northwest side of the plant (Figure 2). COCs in the near-source groundwater plumes include cadmium, fluoride, manganese, nitrate, and selenium. The groundwater also contains elevated levels of non-COC monitored analytes chloride, molybdenum, and sulfate that are monitored to evaluate water quality and used as indicator constituents.

In general, the groundwater plumes in UBZ-1 and 2 travel southward. However, the downgradient extent of each constituent varies as a result of varying mobilization and transport mechanisms (such as source intensity, subsurface geochemical/retardation processes), and structural controls (such as faulting of the basalt flows).

UBZ-3 and 4 Source Areas

The suspected source areas for the UBZ-3 and 4 Plumes include the former Northwest Pond and the Old Hydroclarifier (Figure 2). COCs in these plumes also include cadmium, fluoride, nitrate, manganese, and selenium. Elevated levels of chloride, molybdenum, and sulfate have also been detected in these plumes.

Each COC exceeds its RG within at least some portions of UBZ-3 and 4. In general, groundwater plumes from the Northwest Ponds and the Old Hydroclarifier would be expected to travel toward the south, consistent with the general direction of groundwater flow at the Site. However, groundwater with elevated COCs within the UBZ-4 plume is largely captured by the plant production wells that supply industrial water for the plant. In addition, the Primary fault separates UBZ-2 from UBZ-4 (Figure 2) and is interpreted to be a hydraulic barrier that prevents migration of COCs from UBZ-4 to UBZ-2. It is uncertain how the plume might migrate if the production wells were to be shut down for any length of time.

Because the UBZ-4 plume is generally contained by the plant production wells, no monitoring wells have been constructed within the southern portion of UBZ-4, near the boundary with UBZ-3. However, in 2017, data gaps were identified east of the production wells and in the southern part of UBZ-4 and northern part of UBZ-3 (EPA, 2017). At the request of the EPA, monitoring wells were installed to delineate plumes east and south of the production wells.

Elevated concentrations of molybdenum and vanadium in groundwater have been identified along the east and southeast sides of the plant. Elevated molybdenum has also been identified in springs within Soda Springs south of the plant (Big Springs and City Park Spring, Figure 2). These areas of elevated molybdenum and vanadium in the shallow groundwater and springs originate from source areas at the former Kerr-McGee plant on the east side of Highway 34.

Source Area Well COC Distribution

The 2017 distributions of each of COC in groundwater (plume maps) are illustrated in Figures 4 through 8, respectively. COCs including fluoride and manganese exceed RGs in plant area wells near the suspected source areas (NW pond and UFS ponds) but generally do not extend beyond the south fenceline and are limited to the plant area (Figures 5 and 6).

Nitrate as N is detected above the RG of 10 mg/L in the immediate vicinity of source areas including the old UFS ponds and Old Hydroclarifier, and also southwest of the plant (Figure 7) Note that on Figure 7, elevated nitrate concentrations in wells southeast of the Plant appear to originate from source area(s) outside the Plant based on groundwater flow directions and the absence of any source areas in the UBZ-3 on the Plant (Golder, 2018a). Elevated nitrate levels in wells TW-63 and TW-64 and Homestead Spring are attributed to agricultural fertilizer applications in the area south of the plant and west of Government Dam Road (Golder, 2017a).

In the POC plant production wells PW-01, -02, and -03, cadmium is detected above the RG of 0.005 mg/L, with a maximum concentration of 0.0669 at PW-01 (Figure 4 shows cadmium concentrations). Selenium increased to above the RG of 0.05 mg/L in PW-01 at a concentration of 0.0992 mg/L (Figure 8 shows selenium concentrations).

In the Northwest Pond wells, cadmium is above the RG in TW-16 and 17 at concentrations of 0.484~mg/L and 0.0134~mg/L, respectively. Selenium is above the RG in these two wells at concentrations of 0.279~mg/L and

0.206 mg/L, respectively. In Old Hydroclarifier wells TW-40 and 43, cadmium is above the RG at concentrations of 2.16 and 1.73 mg/L. Selenium is above the RG in these two wells at concentrations of 0.897 and 0.727 mg/L, respectively. In UFS Pond wells TW-22, 24 and 37, cadmium concentrations are above the RG in these three wells at concentrations of 0.0391 mg/L, 0.352 mg/L, and 0.514 mg/L, respectively

Newer monitoring wells drilled near suspected source areas in 2014 (since the last FYR) include TW-70 through TW-76. All of these wells exceed the RGs for cadmium except for TW-76. TW-71 is the highest in cadmium at a concentration of 0.949 mg/L. Selenium is above the RG in these three wells at concentrations of 0.219 mg/L, 0.314 mg/L, and 0.220 mg/L, respectively. Selenium also exceeded the RG in all of the newer monitoring wells (TW-70 through TW-76). TW-76 shows the highest selenium at a concentration of 0.64J mg/L (estimated value).

South Fenceline POC Wells COC Distribution

POC wells TW-20, 34, 35, and 39 are located along the plant's southern fenceline (Figure 2). All COCs except manganese are above RGs in well TW-39. Selenium exceeds the RG in wells TW-20 and 39, with a maximum concentration of 0.364 mg/L (Figure 8). TW-10 is not a POC well, but is located at the southwest corner of the plant and exceeds the RG for selenium at a concentration of 0.089 mg/L.

South of Plant POC Wells COC Distribution

POC wells TW-53, 54, 55 and the Harris Well are located south of the south fenceline. These are largely free of COCs above the RGs, except for selenium, which was detected in 2017 at concentrations above the RGs in all four of these wells, with a maximum concentration of 0.179 mg/L at TW-54 (Figure 8).

Source Area and Point-of-Compliance Wells, COC Trends since the last FYR

The trends of COCs observed since the last FYR are discussed in this subsection, and are based on a visual interpretation of time-concentration graphs and interpretations presented in the annual water quality report (Golder, 2018a). Table 5, excerpted from the Golder summary report on groundwater conditions (2018a), shows the short-term (since the last FYR) constituent concentration trends at POC wells and surface water sites. Table 5 (Golder, 2018a) shows the short-term constituent concentrations at other wells and springs, generally grouped by location at the Site. Figures 9 through 15 provide time-concentration history graphs of COCs that are of importance because of exceedences of RGs, and either stable or increasing trends. These largely focus on cadmium and selenium. As noted previously, fluoride, manganese, and nitrate appear to be largely stable and limited in extent to within the plant area. Exceptions are noted below.

Source Area Well COC Trends:

Figure 9 shows the time concentration history of cadmium and selenium in POC plant production wells PW-01 and 02. It appears that these COC have been increasing in these two wells since 2015. Figure 10 shows the time-concentration history of cadmium, selenium, and manganese in the Northwest Pond wells TW-16 and TW-17. The selenium in TW-16 and 17 has been increasing since 2007; the most notable increased has occurred in TW-17, which was non-detect for site COCs prior to 2007. Manganese has been increasing in TW-17 since the early 1990s. Cadmium has been increasing in TW-17 since a low level in approximately 2010. In the Old Hydroclarifier wells TW-40 and 43, cadmium and selenium concentrations exhibit stable trends.

Figure 11 shows the time concentration history of selenium and cadmium in the old UFS and Tailings Pond source area wells (TW-22, TW-24, and TW-37). The selenium concentrations have been increasing in TW-22 and 24 since low levels in 2007, and stable in TW-37. Concentrations in these wells are all above the RGs. Cadmium is decreasing in TW- 37 since a high in 2011, but remains well above RGs. In new wells near the old UFS ponds TW-70 through 76), selenium is increasing in TW-71 and 76, but decreasing in wells TW-72, and 73. Cadmium concentrations are increasing in TW-71, 75, decreasing in wells TW-72 and 73.

South Fenceline and South of Plant Wells COC Trends

POC wells TW-20, 34, 35, and 39 exhibit generally stable trends for COCs, with some fluctuations over the years (Figure 12). However, cadmium has shown a steady increase since approximately 2007 in TW-39 (Figure 12). Selenium levels declined in TW-20 and 39 over the past 5 years but are above the RGs. Nitrate appears to be increasing in TW-20 and 39 after a low concentration in 2015. As Table 5 illustrates, POC wells TW-53, 54, and the Harris Well show primarily stable or decreasing COC trends since about 2015, with the exception of a slight increase of selenium in TW-55 to above the RG. Nitrate concentrations have decreased in TW-53, but exhibited a sharp increase in TW-54.

Table 5. Short-term Constituent Concentration Trend at Point-of-Compliance Wells and Soda Creek

	Constituents of Concern					
Location	Formation	Cadmium	Fluoride	Manganese	Nitrate as N	Selenium
Groundwater						
Production Wells						
PW-01	UBZ,LBZ-4	û N	îΛ	⇔ Y	û Y	û N
PW-02	UBZ,LBZ-4	⇔ N	îΛ	⇔ Y	î Y	⇔ Y
PW-03	UBZ,LBZ-4	⇔ N	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	҈ Y	û Y
Southern Plant Fence Line						
TW-20	UBZ-2 γ4	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	û N	⇔ N
TW-34	UBZ-2 γ3	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y*	⇔ Y	⇔ Y
TW-35 ^b	UBZ-2 γ3	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y*	⇔ Y	⇔ Y
TW-39	UBZ-2 γ4	û N	⇔ N	⇔ Y	① N	⇔ N
South of Plant (Former Harris Prop	erty)					
TW-53	UBZ-1 γ5	⇔ Y	îΛ	⇔ Y	ΦY	ΦN
TW-54	UBZ-2 γ4	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	û N	ΦN
TW-55	UBZ-2 γ3	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	û Y	û N
Mormon A Spring ^c	UBZ-1 γ5?	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	û N	ΦN
Harris Well	UBZ-2 γ4	⇔ Y	↑ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⊕ N
Soda Creek						
Soda Up Station (SC-01)	-	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y *	⇔ Y	⇔ Y
Soda Down Station (SC-04)	-	⇔ Y	îΛ	⇔ Y	⇔ Y	⇔ Y
Non-Contact Cooling Water Discha	rge ^d					
Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharge	9 -	⇔Y	ŷ Υ	⇔Y	∱ Y	∱ Y

Notes

- a. Constituents included for illustrative purposes only, no remediation goal
- b. Proposed alternative point of compliance for Harris Well
- c. Not a Point of Compliance location
- d. TW-35 could not be sampled, short-term trend is 2012 to 2016
- * Natural background for manganese

⇔ Concentrations relatively stable overall in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017)
 ♣ Concentrations decreased overall in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017)
 ♠ Concentrations increased overall in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017)
 Y Equal to or less than EPA Remediation Goal in June 2017
 N Greater than EPA Remediation Goal in June 2017

Source: Golder, 2018a

Table 6. Short-term Constituent Concentration Trends at Other Wells and Springs

		Constituents of Concern						
Location	Formation	Cadmium	Fluoride	Manganese	Nitrate as N	Selenium		
NW Pond								
TW-29 (background)	UBZ-4 γ3	\$	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔		
TW-16	UBZ-4 γ3	⇔	\$	⇔	Û	Û		
TW-17	UBZ-4 y3	Û	\$	⇔	Û	Û		
TW-18	LBZ-4	⇔	\$	Û	⇔	⇔		
Old UFS Ponds								
TW-57 (background)	UBZ-2 γ5?	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔		
TW-37	UBZ-2 γ4	Û	Û	Û	⇔	⇔		
TW-45	LBZ-2 y2	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔		
TW-71	UBZ-2 y4	Û	\$	Û	Û	Û		
TW-72	UBZ-2 y4	Û	\$	Û	Û	Û		
TW-73	UBZ-2 y4	Û	Û	Û	⇔	Û		
TW-77	UBZ-4 y2	\$	Û	⇔	⇔	⇔		
TW-78	UBZ-4 y3	Û	Û	Û	Û	Û		
Tailings Pond								
TW-22	UBZ-2 γ4?	Û	⇔	Û	⇔	Û		
TW-24	UBZ-2 y4	\$	\$	⇔	⇔	Û		
TW-75	UBZ-2 y4a	Û	\$	Û	Û	\$		
TW-76	UBZ-2 γ4a	\$	\$	Û	Û	Û		
UFS Piles								
TW-48	UBZ-4 γ3	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔		
TW-49	UBZ-4 γ3	⇔	Û	⇔	Û	⇔		
TW-50	UBZ-4 γ3	⇔	⇔	Û	Û	⇔		
Old Hydroclarifier an	d Plant Area V	Vells						
TW-30	UBZ-4 y3	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	Û		
TW-40	UBZ-4 y3	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔		
TW-41	UBZ-4 y3	\$	\$	\$	\$	⇔		
TW-43	UBZ-4 y3	\$	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔		
TW-26	LBZ-4	\$	⇔	\$	⇔	⇔		
TW-44	LBZ-4	\$	\$	⇔	\$	⇔		

		Constituents of Concern					
Location	Formation	Cadmium	Fluoride	Manganese	Nitrate as N	Selenium	
Southwest Corner W	Southwest Corner Wells						
TW-07	UBZ-1 y4	⇔	Û	⇔	⇔	⇔	
TW-08	UBZ-1 y3	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔	⇔	
TW-10	UBZ-1 γ5	⇔	Û	⇔	⇔	Û	
TW-87	UBZ-1 y4	\$	\$	Û	\$	⇔	
TW-88	UBZ-1 y5	\$	\$	Û	⇔	⇔	
East Side and Southe	east Corner W	ells					
TW-15 (background)	UBZ-4 flow V	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔	
TW-11	LBZ-3 y2	\$	\$	⇔	⇔	⇔	
TW-12	UBZ-3 y3	⇔	⇔	Û	Û	⇔	
TW-33	UBZ-4 y4	\$	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔	
TW-38	UBZ-3 y3	\$	\$	⇔	Û	⇔	
TW-56	UBZ-3 γ3	\$	\$	⇔	⇔	⇔	
Monitoring Wells Sou	uth and South	west of Plant					
TW-59	UBZ-2 γ4	⇔	Û	⇔	Û	Û	
TW-60	UBZ-1 γ4	\$	⇔	Û	⇔	⇔	
TW-61	UBZ-1 γ4	⇔	Û	⇔	⇔	⇔	
TW-62	UBZ-2 γ4	⇔	Û	⇔	Û	Û	
TW-70	UBZ-2 y3	\$	\$	⇔	⇔	Û	
TW-85	UBZ-1 y5	\$	Û	Û	Û	Û	
TW-86	UBZ-1 γ5	\$	Û	⇔	Û	Û	
Property Line Wells TW-65 UBZ-2 γ4 ⇔ ⇔ ⇔ ⇔ ⇔ ⇔ TW-66 UBZ-2 γ3 ⇔ ⇔ Φ ⊕ ⇔ ⇔							
	TW-67 UBZ-2 γ4/γ3 ⇔ ⇔ ≎ û ⇔						
Wells West of Plant							
TW-68	UBZ-1 γ5	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔	
TW-69	UBZ-1 γ5	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	Û	
TW-84	UBZ-1 γ4	Û	Û	⇔	Û	Û	
Springs							
Homestead Spring	UBZ-1 γ5?	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	⇔	
Mormon A Spring	UBZ-1 γ5?	⇔	⇔	⇔	Û	Û	
Mormon B Spring	UBZ-1 γ5?	⇔	Û	⇔	Û	Û	
Mormon C Spring	UBZ-1 γ5?	⇔	û	⇔	Û	Û	
Calf Spring ^a	UBZ-1 γ5?	Û	⇔	Û	Û	⇔	

Notes:

a. Calf Spring has been dry from 2013 to 2016, reflects trend from 2008 to 2012.

Concentrations relatively stable overall in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017)

Concentrations decreased overall in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017)

Source: Golder, 2018a

Downgradient Wells, COC Distribution

In general, COCs including cadmium, manganese, and fluoride were not detected above RGs south of the plant fenceline. Two interpreted nitrate plumes are identified south and southwest of the plant, with maximum concentrations at TW-85 at a concentration of 34.8 mg/L (Figure 7). Most of the other wells in these plumes have nitrate concentrations between 10 and 20 mg/L; compared with the RG of 10 mg/L (Figures 4 through 7).

Figure 8 indicates that selenium is the only COC that exceeds its RG outside of the southern Monsanto property boundary, at TW-65 with a 2017 concentration of 0.059 mg/L. Selenium was detected in TW-66, the deeper well adjacent to TW-65, at a concentration of 0.028 mg/L, below the RG. The selenium plume has migrated southward past the southern and property line (IC boundary) within the UBZ-1 and 2 aquifers. This plume appears to be following a southerly preferential flow path in the three shallowest water-bearing zones beneath the Site (gamma zones 3, 4, and 5). As reported in the 2017 water quality report (Golder, 2018a), data from downgradient monitoring wells installed by Kerr McGee show that selenium concentrations appear to be very low south of the southern property line and TW-65 (i.e. further downgradient), ranging from 0.0028 mg/L at KM-46, and 0.0017 at KM-39.

The next upgradient shallow wells from the south property line, TW-59, 62 and 64, have selenium concentrations above the RGs at 0.084, 0.147, and 0.084J mg/L, respectively. Additional monitoring wells installed in 2018 should define the southwest extent of the selenium plume west of Government Dam Road.

Downgradient Wells, COC Trends

Selenium concentrations in southern property line wells TW-65 and TW-66 are stable overall (Figure 13, Table 6) although the selenium concentration has decreased slightly since 2011 in TW-65. However, selenium concentrations are interpreted to be increasing in the next upgradient wells TW-59, 62, and 70 (Table 6).

Surface Water Quality

Figure 3 shows the principal surface water bodies affected at the site including Soda Creek (downstream from the effluent discharge) and Mormon Creek (fed by discharging impacted groundwater). EPA requested that Monsanto analyze surface water discharges to Soda Creek for hazardous substances at a level of detail consistent with ongoing groundwater data reporting. Thus, upstream and downstream sample locations were added to Soda Creek in 2001, and Mormon Creek sampling was added in 2002 (EPA, 2008).

Surface Water - Springs

Total recoverable selenium has exceeded the chronic WQS of 0.005 mg/L at several springs during the monitoring period beginning in 1980. Mormon A, B, and C Springs (Figure 14) are groundwater discharge from UBZ-1 and 2. Selenium has historically exceeded the groundwater RG and surface water chronic WQS (0.005 mg/L). In 2017, the selenium concentration in Mormon A Spring (alternate POC location) was 0.228 mg/L. The concentrations of total recoverable selenium in Mormon B and C springs ranged from 0.136J mg/L to 0.08 mg/L in 2017.

At Mormon A, B and C springs, the selenium concentrations are above the groundwater RG, but have exhibited decreasing trends in the short-term since approximately 2014-2015 (Table 6, Figure 15). Nitrate is above the groundwater RG and increasing in Homestead and Mormon A, B, and C springs in the short-term. Other COCs (including fluoride, and manganese) are below the groundwater RGs and are interpreted to be stable.

Cadmium concentrations have been stable above the groundwater RG of 0.005 mg/L and surface water chronic WQS of 0.0006 mg/L in alternate POC location Mormon A Spring. The cadmium concentrations in Mormon A Spring have decreased from peaks in the 1980s but appear to have stabilized since the 1990s at concentrations around 0.015 mg/L. Cadmium was detected at SW spring above its confluence with Soda Creek at a concentration of 0.0083 mg/L.

At Southwest and Homestead springs, total recoverable selenium concentrations (0.019 mg/L and 0.039 mg/L, respectively) are below the groundwater RG of 0.05 mg/L, but above the chronic WQS of 0.005 mg/L.

Surface Water – Creeks

Soda Creek

Fifteen surface water sampling stations have been established on Soda Creek (Golder, 1998; EPA, 2008), from upstream of the Site to approximately 2 miles downstream where Soda Creek intersects US Highway 30 (Figure 3). Soda Creek is flow-impaired between power canal diversions at the Soda Weir (SC-2) and the Soda upstream

power return (SC-7), and below the irrigation diversion (SC-9). In 2017, the flow ranged from 67 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the diversion weir (SC-2) down to less than 1 cfs below the diversion. The flow increased to approximately 3.2 cfs in the diverted reach because of inflow from Southwest and Mormon springs, and other base flow, and then was measured at 62 cfs below the power return (SC-7).

Of significance in the flow-impaired reach of Soda Creek is that the springs and seeps that feed this reach are surface water expressions of groundwater discharging from the UBZ-1 and UBZ-2 aquifers. Also of significance is that a majority of the flow is diverted upstream then returned downstream, and thus the COC concentrations in the flow-impaired portion of Soda Creek are more pronounced.

Station SC-01 is upstream of the spring inflow into the flow-impaired section, and SC-04 is downstream. In the flow-impaired reach, total recoverable selenium exceeded the chronic aquatic standard (IDAPA 58.01.02) of 0.005 mg/L at Soda Creek sample stations SC-4, SC-6 and SC-7 in 2017, with concentrations of 0.0121J, 0.124J and 0.0130J, respectively (Figure 14). However, below the power canal return, at Stations SC-08 through SC-11, dilution from the return flow results in the downstream selenium concentrations to drop below the Idaho chronic criteria. In addition, the selenium concentrations at stations SC-04 and SC-06 have decreased since 2010 (Golder, 2018a, Figure E-7). The noncontact cooling water discharge sampling location on Soda Creek has exhibited an increase in nitrate and selenium concentrations in the short-term.

Cadmium levels were above the WQS of 0.0006 mg/L in the flow-diverted reach at Stations SW Spring, SC-3, SC-4, SC-6 and SC-7 at concentrations of between 0.0012 and 0.008 mg/L). However, below the power canal return flow, cadmium is non-detect due to dilution.

Mormon Creek

Mormon Creek is a tributary to Soda Creek that is fed by discharge from the UBZ-1 and 2 aquifers (Mormon A, B, and C Springs, Calf Spring, and diffuse groundwater seepage). Flow in Mormon Creek was measured at 0.4 cfs in 2017. The sampling station on Mormon Creek (MC-1) is located immediately above its confluence with Soda Creek. Selenium concentrations at MC-1 have exceeded the groundwater RG and chronic WQS of 0.005 mg/L since monitoring at this station began in 2002, with a 2017 estimated concentration of 0.172J mg/L. Cadmium concentrations in Mormon Creek were 0.0101 mg/L in 2017.

However, selenium concentrations decreased between 2014 and 2015 at the three Mormon Springs sampling stations that feed Mormon Creek, likely in response to reduced flows and groundwater capture during aquifer pilot testing upstream. The selenium concentration at Station MC-1 dropped between 2011 and 2015, then increased from 2015 to 2017 (Figure 15).

As identified in the ROD, Soda Creek is the only natural stream which is nearby and potentially affected by the Site. Exceedances of selenium and cadmium WQS were noted within the flow impaired reaches of Soda Creek and upgradient surface water expressions (i.e., springs). The upper portions of Soda Creek do not support a fisheries resource due to naturally-occurring carbon dioxide concentrations in the water. The lower reach of Soda Creek, just above its confluence with the Alexander Reservoir, provides suitable conditions to support fisheries. Exceedances of selenium and cadmium WOS have not been observed in these lower reaches.

Sediments in Soda Creek and Alexander Reservoir

During the Phase I and Phase II or the RI, sediments were sampled in Soda Creek upstream and downstream of the plant outfall, and the non-contact cooling water was also sampled and analyzed. Statistical analyses were performed on the water and sediment data to determine which downstream parameters were elevated with respect to upstream concentrations (Golder, 2018b). Sediments collected from Soda Creek downstream of the Soda Weir were found to contain elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, nickel, selenium, silver, vanadium, and polonium-210. Each elevated constituent was subjected to a preliminary risk-based screening to identify the constituents of potential concern (COPCs) in sediment. Additional sediment sampling was conducted and included toxicity testing on benthic invertebrates. The results of the toxicity testing results on the sediments were inconclusive.

The ROD did not specify a remedy for sediments, but required sediment sampling in Soda Creek every five years to evaluate if concentrations of COCs are increasing, decreasing, or stable. Monsanto conducted sediment sampling in 2017 to support the fourth FYR (Golder, 2018b) using Incremental Sampling Methodology (ISM). Figure 16 shows the locations of the Sediment Sample Reaches in Soda Creek. Figures 17 through 25 show the

constituent concentrations in sediment and variations in concentrations from upstream to downstream in the 11 reaches sampled. Both the 2017 and previous 2012 ISM data are shown for comparison to observed increases or decreases.

The following text provides a summary of the apparent changes (increases/decreases) since 2012 in each COC throughout the system (note that Reach 10 was not sampled in 2017 because of high flows). The changes are based on visual interpretations of the concentrations between 2012 and 2017 and also interpretations provided in Golder (2017b).

- Arsenic: No apparent trend with time except a higher concentration at Control Reach 01 since 2012 (Figure 17).
- Beryllium: Very slight increase since 2012 in reaches 01, 05, 06, 07, and 11 (Figure 18).
- Cadmium: Slightly higher concentrations since 2012 in reaches 07, 08, and 11 (Figure 19).
- Copper: No apparent trend with time except slightly lower concentrations in reach 07 and Region 11, also called the Soda Creek Arm (Figure 20).
- Nickel: No apparent trend with time in nickel concentration, except for higher concentration in reach 01, and lower concentration in Reach 08 (Figure 21).
- Polonium 210: Slightly higher concentrations than 2012 in reaches 01, 02, 05, 07, and Soda Creek Arm. However, the highest concentration overall was upgradient in Reach 01 (Figure 22).
- Selenium: Slightly higher than 2011 in Reaches 02, 05 and 07, but same as 2011 in Soda Creek Arm (Figure 23).
- Silver: Higher than 2012 in the flow-diverted reaches (05 through 08), but similar to upstream reaches and non-detect in the Soda Creek Arm (Figure 24).
- Vanadium: Slight decrease in concentrations between 2012 and 2017 (Figure 25).

Overall, in the downstream reaches, cadmium concentrations decrease from Reach 07 to the Soda Creek Arm, but are slightly higher than the upstream control reaches. Concentrations of arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, nickel, selenium, silver, and vanadium all decrease from Reach 08 (in the flow-diverted portion of Soda Creek) to the Soda Creek Arm (Region 11). The copper concentration in sediments is slightly higher in the Soda Creek Arm than in Reaches 05, 06, 07, and 08. COC concentrations are lower than observed in the upstream control reaches except for cadmium and copper.

The ISM results are compared to Freshwater Sediment Screening Benchmarks (EPA, 2006), which are based on ecological risk. These are not legally enforceable but are used to guide decisions regarding site specific investigations for ecological risk.

Cadmium concentrations exceed the sediment screening benchmark of 0.99 mg/Kg in reach 05 through 11. Selenium concentrations exceed the sediment screening benchmark of 2 mg/kg in all reaches in Soda Creek, at concentrations between 4.2 and 57 mg/kg. Arsenic, nickel, and silver concentration exceed sediment screening benchmarks in almost all reaches. Copper concentrations are below screening benchmarks in all reaches. Beryllium, polonium-210, or vanadium do not have sediment screening benchmarks. In summary, in the flow-diverted reaches, cadmium and selenium concentrations increase markedly in reaches 06 and 07. It is interpreted that cadmium and selenium enter Soda Creek from Mormon Creek and baseflow of groundwater from UBZ-1 and 2. However, concentrations of these two COCs in sediment decline downstream from Reach 08, when the power return flow enters Soda Creek.

The constituent concentrations in Soda Creek sediments appear to be generally stable and did not increased markedly between 2012 and 2017. The third sediment ISM sample will be conducted in 2022. The results of this sample event will enable evaluation of trends in sediment concentrations.

Offsite Soils

As required by the ROD, Monsanto collected offsite soil samples for the fourth FYR to determine the concentrations of COCs in soil grids surrounding the plant. Soil sampling results indicated that offsite soils were all below the remediation goal of 3.7 picocuries per gram for Radium-226, except in Parcels 1, 2, and 6 (these parcels had concentrations of 4.41, 3.82, and 4.1 picocuries per gram, respectively) (Figure 26). These parcels are on the southeast side of the plant and Radium-226 concentrations from these parcels exceeded the RG in the third FYR. These parcels have previously been identified as exceeding the RGS, and those parcels are under appropriate

ICs (Golder, 2018c). Because no new areas with RG exceedances were identified, no title or other searches will be conducted as no new ICs are needed.

Decision Units 21, 22 and 25, located northeast of the plan, showed Radium-226 concentrations above the RG during the third FYR. However, samples from these decision units had Radium-226 concentrations below the RG during the fourth FYR.

Site Inspection

The FYR site inspection was conducted on June 6, 2018. Jason Maughan of Monsanto and Greg Warren of CH2M (representative of EPA) were in attendance. The purpose of the inspection was to visually assess the protectiveness of the remedy and ongoing Site O&M, including the condition and sampling of the monitoring wells, and engineering controls of the source piles.

No significant findings were observed during the inspection. The monitoring wells inside and outside of the plant were all in acceptable condition. Monsanto continues fugitive dust control on plant roads, and has been plot-testing cover materials for plants on the on-site source piles. The checklist is included in Appendix C and provides additional details regarding the condition and performance of the remedy.

V. TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

QUESTION A: Is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents?

Question A Summary:

No. The ROD (1997) indicates that modeling predicted that "without further action concentrations of constituents in groundwater at the southern Plant boundary will be restored to background levels within 5 to 30 years" (depending on the contaminant and it rate of degradation). In addition, the combination of source control and remedial actions and natural attenuation "is projected to restore the groundwater to [contaminant] levels which allow for unrestricted use and exposure within 30 years". Finally, the ROD states "If groundwater recovery appears to significantly differ from model projections, the model and the need for additional groundwater remedial actions should be re-evaluated".

Based on a review of current groundwater data and source area conditions, the groundwater remedy (MNA) is not performing as intended. Groundwater monitoring data reveal that after initially decreasing, some COC concentrations have been increasing over the last several years in some of the monitoring locations, and at some locations appear relatively stable above the RGs. In addition, the COC selenium has been detected at the southern property boundary in monitoring well TW-65 at concentrations that exceeded its RG. Monitoring wells upgradient from the southern property line are interpreted to be increasing in the short-term (Figure 8; Table 6; Golder, 2018a). These trends indicate the selenium is not attenuating at the previously-estimated rate.

The RI concluded that remaining source areas such as the Northwest Pond and UFS Ponds had been adequately controlled by taking the ponds out of service and lining them with impermeable barriers to prevent any contaminant migration. However, investigations conducted since the last FYR (Golder, 2016) revealed that more than 40,000 tons of source materials are estimated to remain in the UFS and Tailing Ponds. Moreover, these potential source areas are covered with crushed slag and other permeable materials that allow infiltrated precipitation to flow vertically downward and reach the groundwater aquifer; thus contributing to ongoing contamination in groundwater.

Attenuation rates have proved to be slower than originally predicted, for selenium in particular. These issues raise the uncertainty of the ability of the implemented remedy of MNA to achieve the goal of groundwater restoration within the 5- to 30- year timeframe. Groundwater cleanup performance standards have not been achieved as of 2017, and data suggest that those standards will not be achieved in the foreseeable future, particularly now that leaching from remaining COC sources has been positively identified.

Uncertainties in the Conceptual Site Model have been identified (Golder, 2016). Data gaps were identified at the southwest property line along Government Dam Road where the selenium plume has not been completely delineated; and east and southeast of the plant production wells, where the extent of groundwater capture and the relationship to the Kerr-McGee plume has not been fully characterized. Monitoring wells were installed in 2018 to address these data gaps, but at the time of this report preparation, these data are not available. Other unknowns include the full extent and thickness of the UFS source materials remaining buried on site, the spatial distribution of precipitation infiltration, the source of elevated chloride that could result in increased cadmium leaching, the source of nitrate and manganese within the UBZ-2 area that results in groundwater concentrations above the RG, and the potential for COC transport downgradient of UBZ-4 outside control by production wells.

A domestic well survey and sampling event was conducted in 2015 (Golder, 2015) to investigate the presence of domestic wells and current usage. The area of the study included all areas where wells that could have been potentially impacted by the plume from the Site. No drinking water wells were discovered to exceed the RGs for any site COCs (Golder, 2015). However, no specific safeguards or legally enforceable restrictions are in place to prevent use of groundwater in locations where site-related COCs exceed RGs within Soda Springs, south of Monsanto's property line.

QUESTION B: Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives (RAOs) used at the time of the remedy selection still valid?

Question B Summary:

Yes. Exposure assumptions, ARARs, RGs, and RAOs used at the time of the remedy are still valid. Changes to toxicity factors and EPA guidance are not significant enough to affect the remedy or require additional monitoring. The narrative below describes changes that have occurred since the remedy was selected, and whether those changes affect the validity of the remedy.

Changes in Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) and To Be Considered (TBCs) Criteria

The 1997 ROD did not identify Idaho surface water quality standards as ARARs. Monitoring data indicates that total recoverable selenium has exceeded the current Idaho chronic WQS of 0.005 mg/L in areas where contaminated groundwater discharges to springs and creeks. EPA should consider whether a decision document is needed to incorporate the Idaho WQS as an ARAR and the selenium WQS as an RG. No other changes were identified for ARARs or TBCs.

New Contaminants or Contaminant Sources

No new contaminants have been identified at the Site.

Changes in Toxicity and Other Contaminant Characteristics

Human health toxicity factors for several contaminants evaluated during the risk assessment have changed since the time of remedy selection, although the changes to these toxicity factors were minor. The inhalation toxicity factors used during the risk assessment are outdated because guidance for estimating risk from the inhalation pathway has changed since the time of the risk assessment (EPA, 2009). The impact of these changes on baseline risk is unknown, although these methodology changes are unlikely to affect the remedy because exposures via the dust inhalation pathway are much less than through ingestion.

Changes in Risk Assessment Methods

EPA has published many new risk assessment guidance documents since the ROD. No new guidance documents that would affect the assessment of risks at this site have been issued in the last five years. The methodology used during the human health and ecological risk assessments was sufficient to evaluate risk in those areas of the Site that were evaluated at that time. Methodology changes provided in new or updated guidance documents are not anticipated to be significant enough to result in changes to RGs or to affect the validity of previous remedial action decisions at the Site.

Changes in Exposure Pathways and Land Use

Since the last FYR, domestic well survey and water quality sampling reports were completed for the Soda Springs area south (downgradient) of the Site, where the plume may have migrated (Golder, 2015). The survey identified only four domestic wells and one spring that are operational in the study area. Three of the wells are used for drinking water, while the fourth well is used for irrigation and stock watering. Sample results collected in 2015 (Golder, 2015) from the four domestic wells identified showed that COC concentrations are all below the RGs identified in Table 1. Additionally, potable water is provided by the City for the citizens of Soda Springs. Considering this, along with the results of the well survey and water quality sampling report, groundwater contamination related to the Site is not believed to pose an unacceptable risk under the current conditions.

Changes in Remedial Action Objectives

There have been no changes to the existing RAOs, and the RAOs remain valid.

QUESTION C: Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

No.

VI. ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:					
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Remedy Performance				
	Issue : Concentrations of COCs in groundwater exceed RGs beyond the Monsanto property boundary, nature and extent of groundwater plume(s) of site-related COCs are not well defined, and trends indicate that groundwater RGs will not be met in the 5- to 30-year time frame anticipated in the ROD.				
	Recommendation : Complete the supplemental focused Remedial Investigation and execute a focused Feasibility Study to evaluate the current remedy and the need to add additional remedial actions to achieve RAOs. If necessary execute a ROD amendment or ESD to achieve RAOs. Continue monitoring groundwater annually to observe changes in COC concentrations.				
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Protectiveness Party Responsible Oversight Party Milestone Date				
No	Yes	PRP	EPA	3/13/2020	

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:					
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Institutional Controls				
	Issue: No restrictions are in place to prevent installation and/or use of domestic or irrigation wells downgradient of the Monsanto Site where COCs exceed the RGs.				
	Recommendation: Develop an institutional control plan for areas where groundward COCs have migrated beyond current property boundary. Enact enforceable restriction on groundwater use beyond southern property boundary to prevent exposure where plume has migrated to Soda Springs.				
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Protectiveness	Party Responsible	Oversight Party	Milestone Date	
No	Yes	PRP	EPA	9/6/2019	

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:				
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Remedy Performance			
	Issue: Potential sources of COCs to groundwater remain in the old UFS Ponds, UFS Piles, Northwest Pond, and Old Hydroclarifier Areas. Recommendation: Fully define the extent of remaining on-site sources and address leaching of COCs into groundwater.			
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Protectiveness	Party Responsible	Oversight Party	Milestone Date
No	Yes	PRP	EPA	9/6/2019

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:					
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Remedy Performance				
	Issue: Concentrations of contaminants in sediments in Soda Creek are elevated based on statistical analyses and relative to ecological risk benchmarks downstream of facility in the flow-diverted reaches.				
	Recommendation: Continue monitoring the sediments every five years. Consider whether remedial action is necessary to address ecological risks due to elevated contaminant concentrations in sediments.				
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Party Responsible Oversight Party Milestone Date				
No	Yes	PRP	EPA	8/18/2023	

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:				
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Remedy Performance			
	Issue: Concentrations of surface water in location where groundwater discharges to several streams and creeks exceed Idaho WQS.			
	Recommendation: Continue monitoring surface water annually. Execute a ROD amendment or ESD to add surface water RAOs, ARARs, and RGs, and require any necessary remedial action.			
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Protectiveness	Party Responsible	Oversight Party	Milestone Date
Yes	Yes	PRP	EPA	8/18/2023

Issues and Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:						
OU(s): N/A	Issue Category: Remedy Performance					
	Issue : Uncertainties have been identified in the CSM that raise questions to the appropriateness of the remedy.					
	Recommendation : Execute the recommendations from the focused supplemental RI and source area characterization (Golder, 2016) to fully characterize source materials, COC transport mechanism, evaluate chloride, nitrate and manganese sources, and evaluate water quality data from wells installed in 2018.					
Affect Current Protectiveness	Affect Future Party Responsible Oversight Party Milestone Date					
No	Yes	PRP	EPA	3/13/2020		

VII. PROTECTIVENESS STATEMENT

Sitewide Protectiveness Statement

Protectiveness Determination:

Not Protective

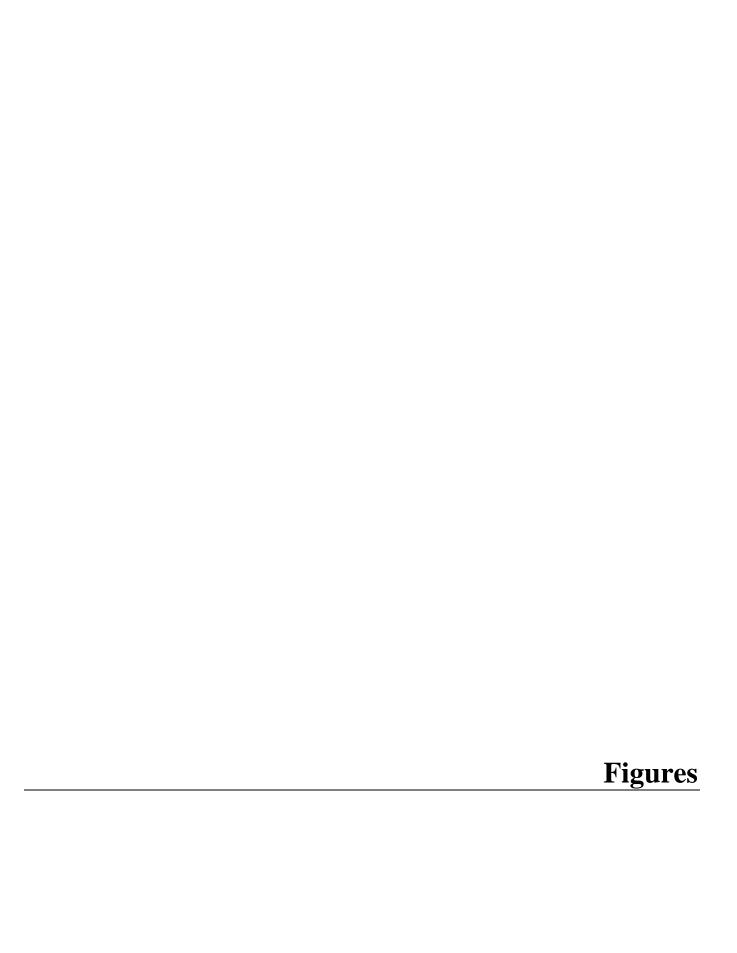
Protectiveness Statement:

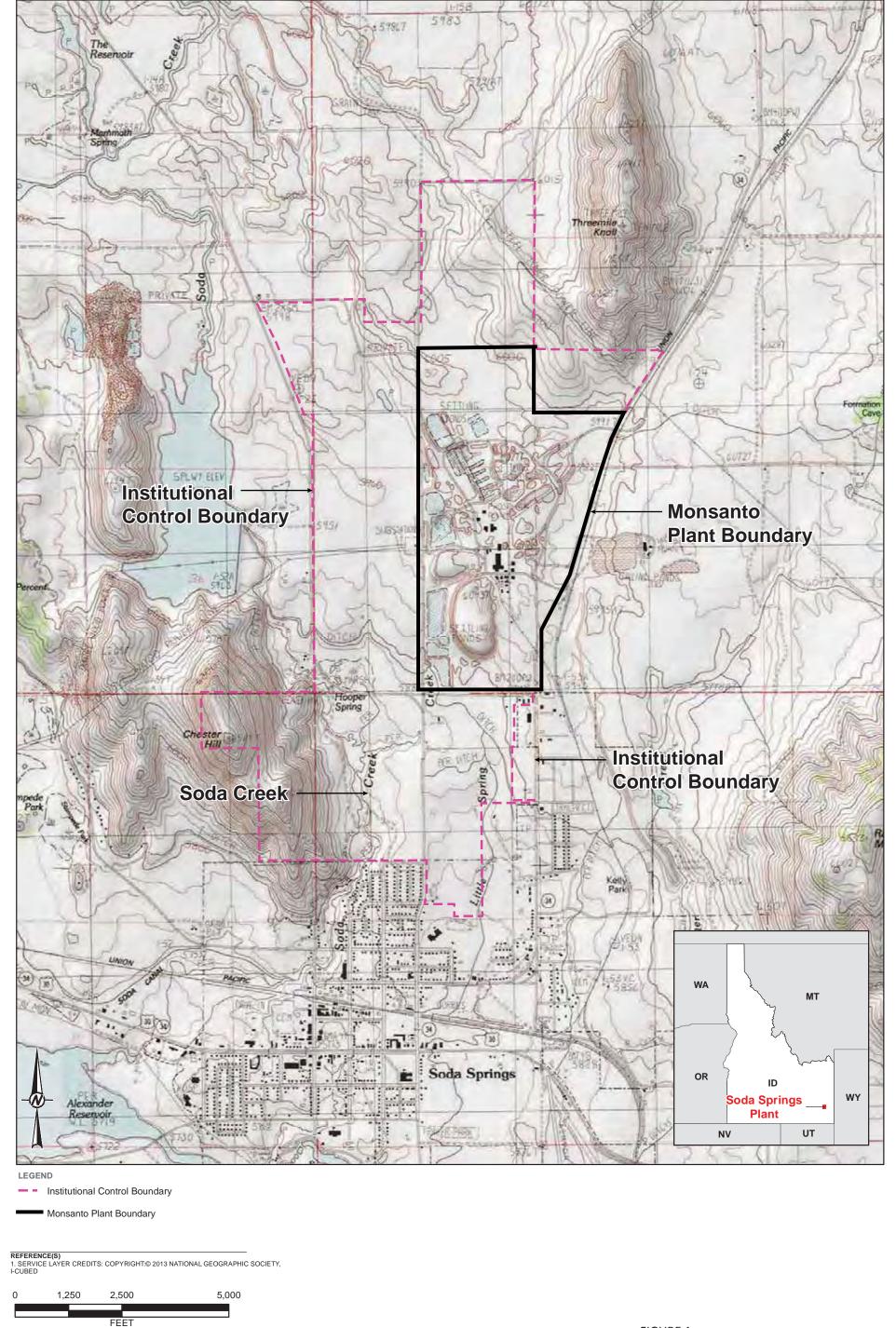
The remedy for the Monsanto Site is not protective because concentrations of surface water in locations where groundwater discharges to several streams and creeks exceed Idaho WQS. The following actions need to be taken to ensure protectiveness: execute a ROD Amendment or ESD to add surface water RAOs, ARARs, and RGs, and require any necessary remedial action.

In addition, the following issues need to be taken in order to ensure long-term protectiveness: Complete the supplemental focused Remedial Investigation and execute a focused Feasibility Study to evaluate the current remedy and the need to add additional remedial actions to achieve RAOs. If necessary execute a ROD amendment or ESD to achieve RAOs. Continue monitoring groundwater, sediments, and surface water to observe changes in COC concentrations. Fully define the extent of remaining on-site sources and address leaching of COCs into groundwater. Develop and implement an institutional control plan for areas where groundwater COCs have migrated beyond current property boundary.

VIII. NEXT REVIEW

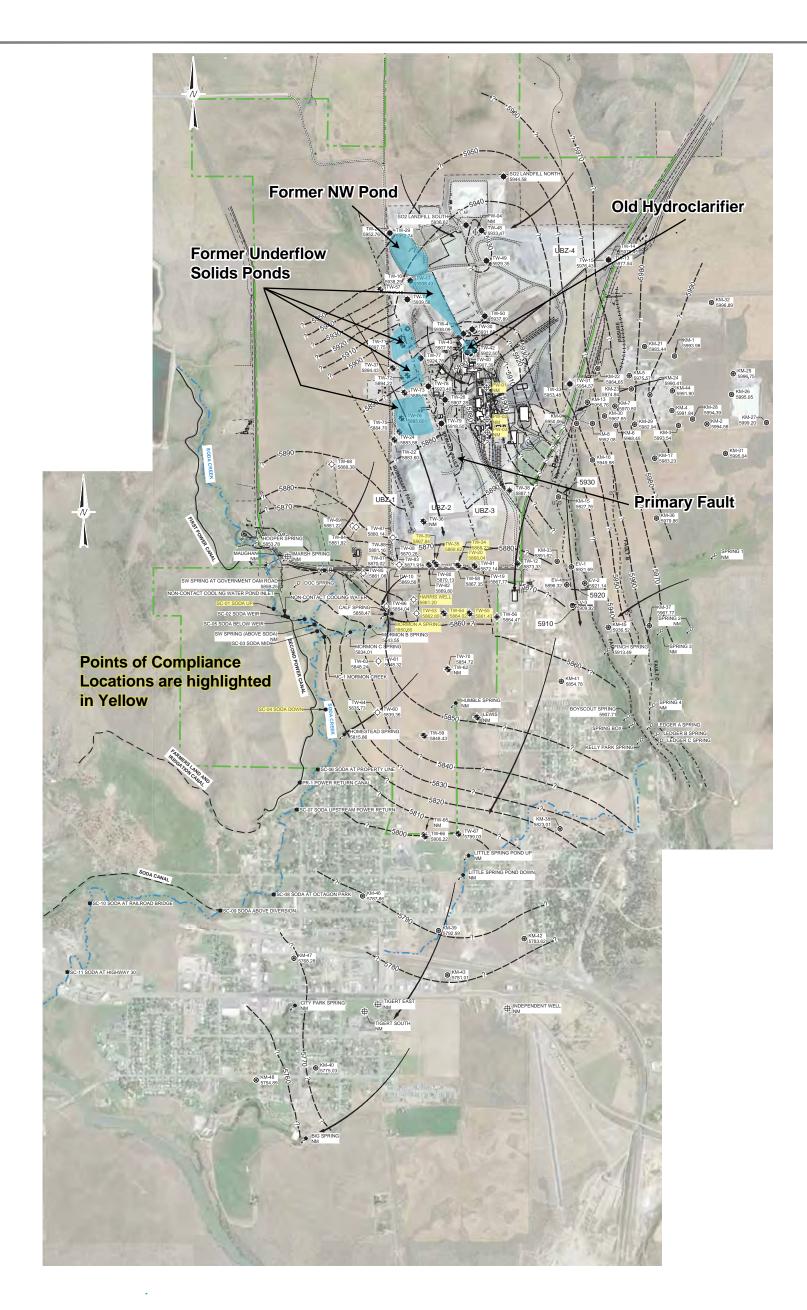
The next FYR report for the Site is required 5 years from the completion date of this review.

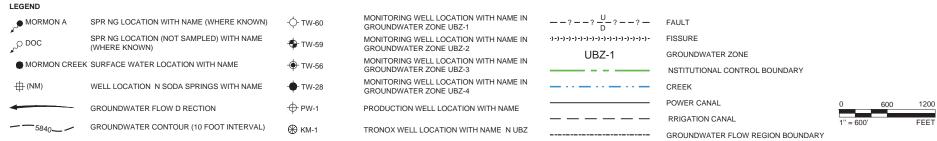




Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2017. 2017 Off-site Soil Sampling Report, Fourth CERCLA Five-Year Review, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company.

FIGURE 1
Monsanto Plant Vicinity Map
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review
Caribou County, Idaho





NOTES

NAD83 DAHO STATE PLANES, EAST ZONE, US FOOT.
 AERIAL PHOTO FROM GOOGLE EARTH (8/2/2013).

FIGURE 2

Monitoring Well Locations, Springs, Groundwater Elevation and Flow Direction in the Upper Basalt Zone (June 2017) Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho

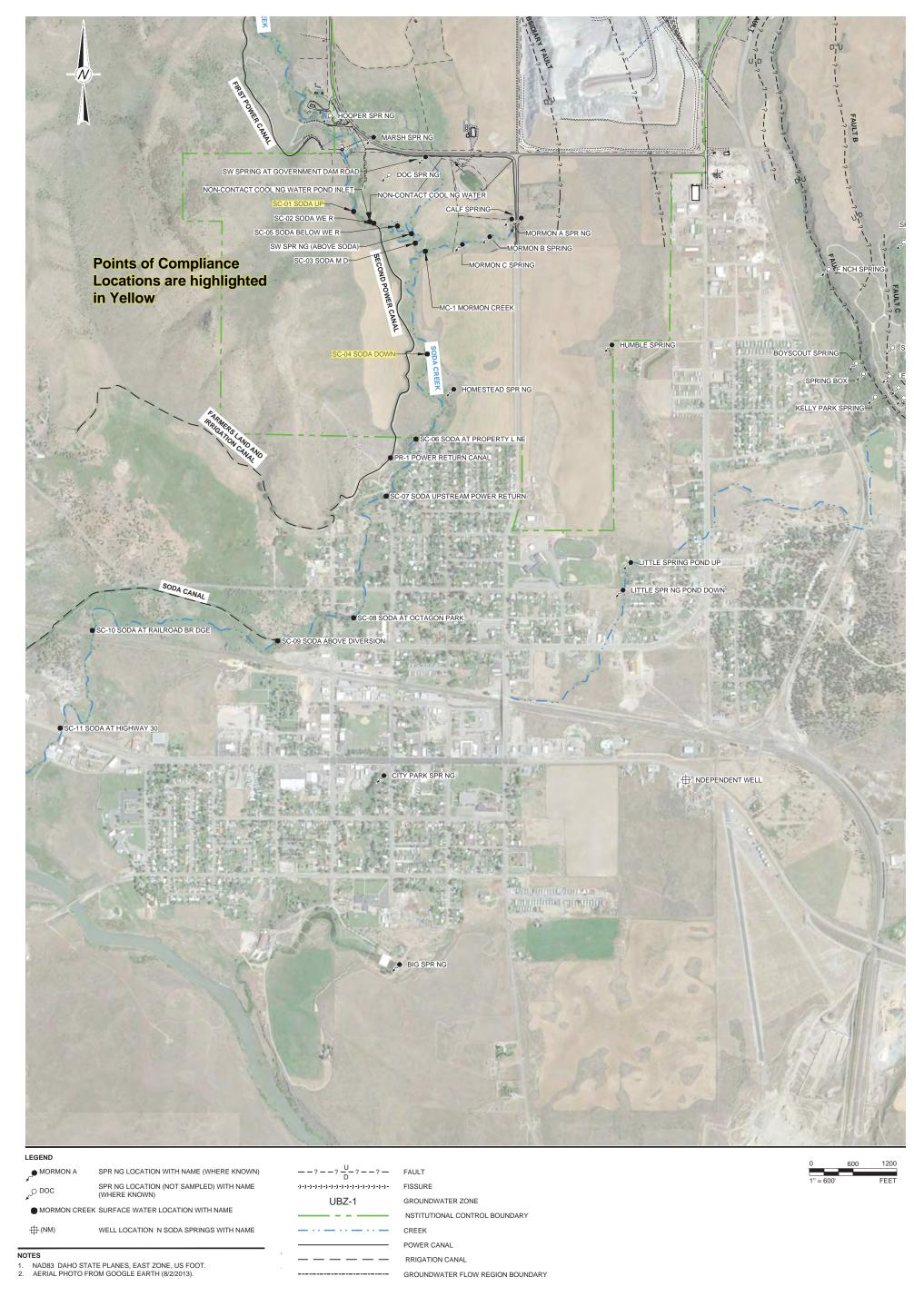
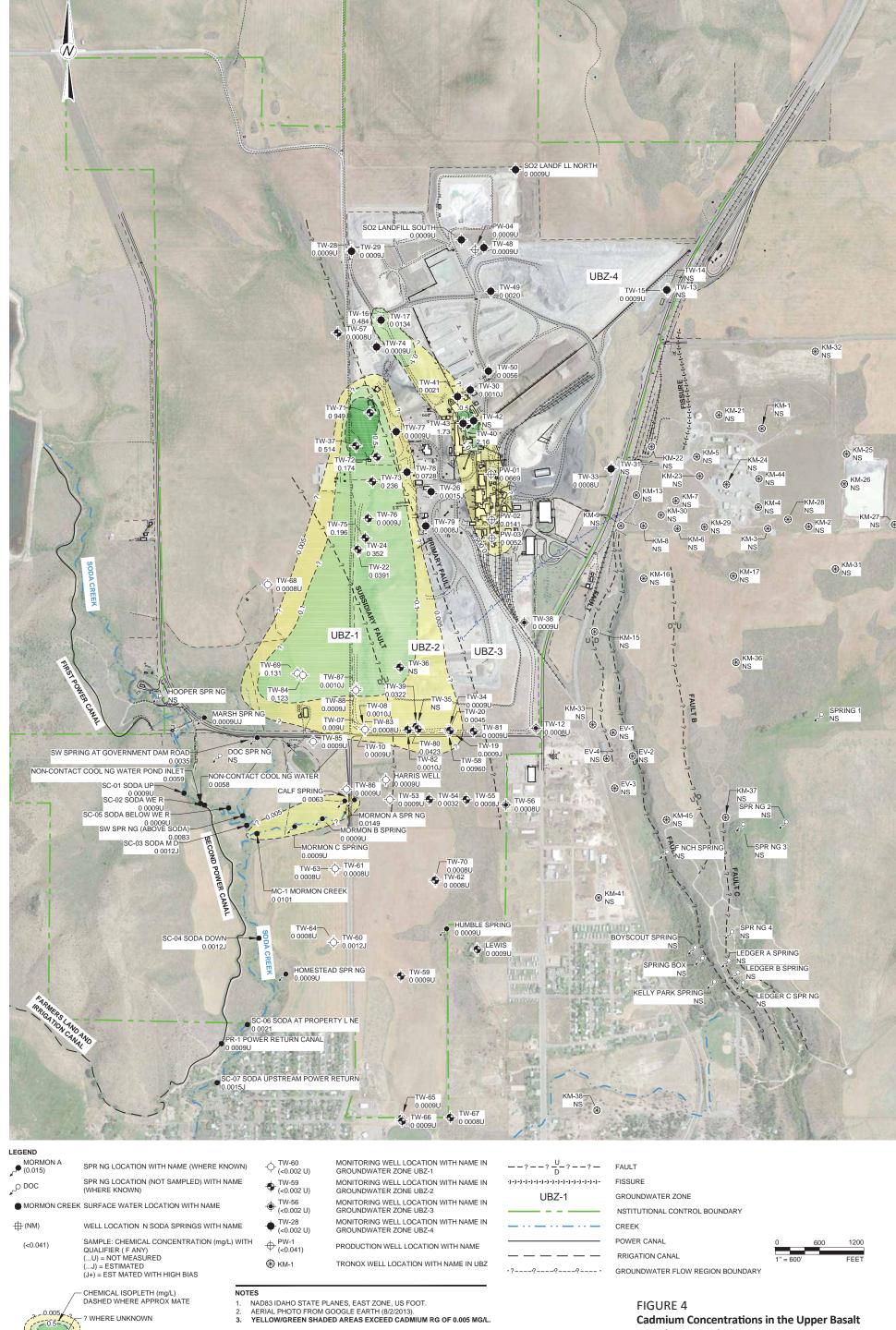


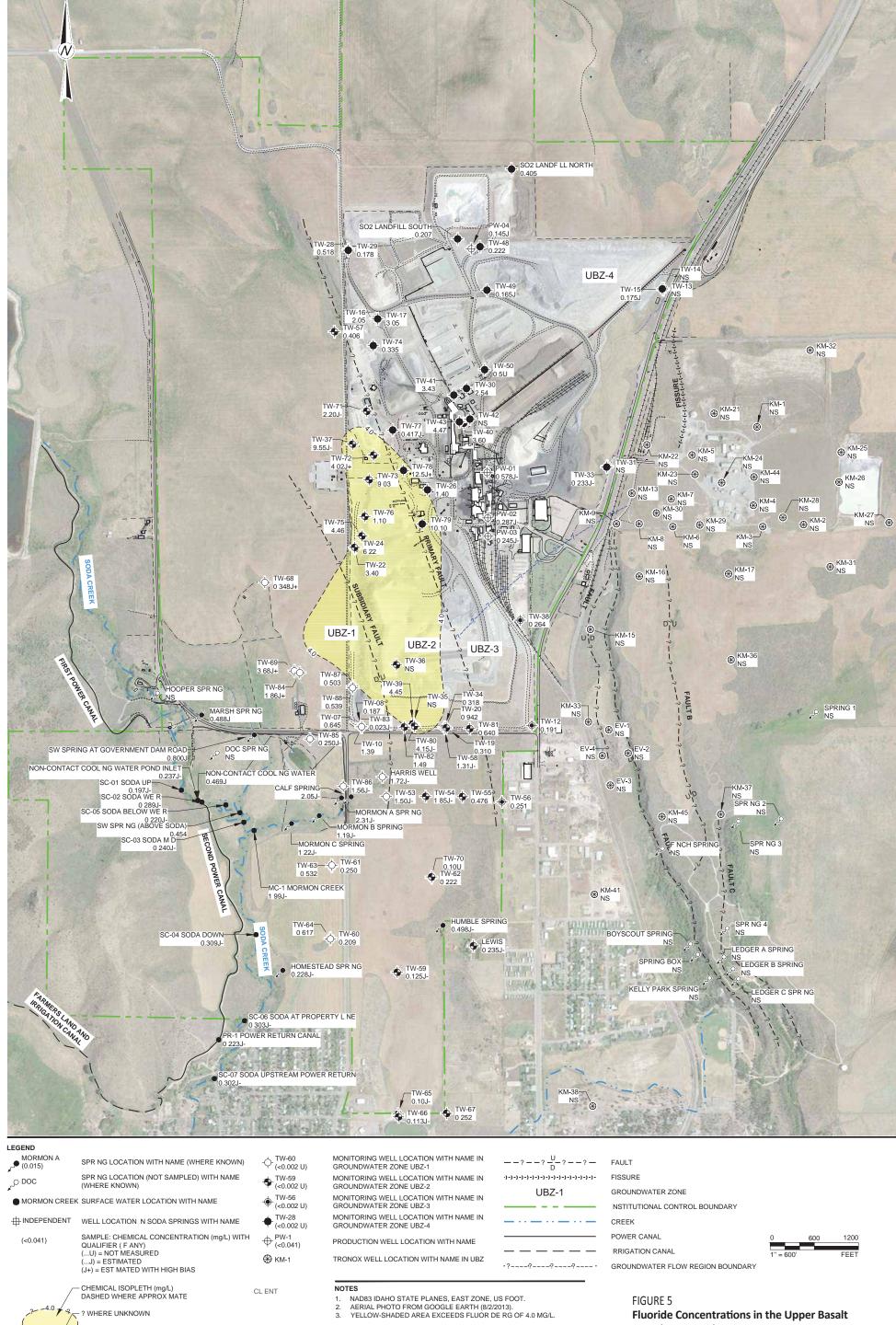
FIGURE 3 Soda Creek and Springs Sample Locations Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

FIGURE 4
Cadmium Concentrations in the Upper Basalt
Zone (June 2017)
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

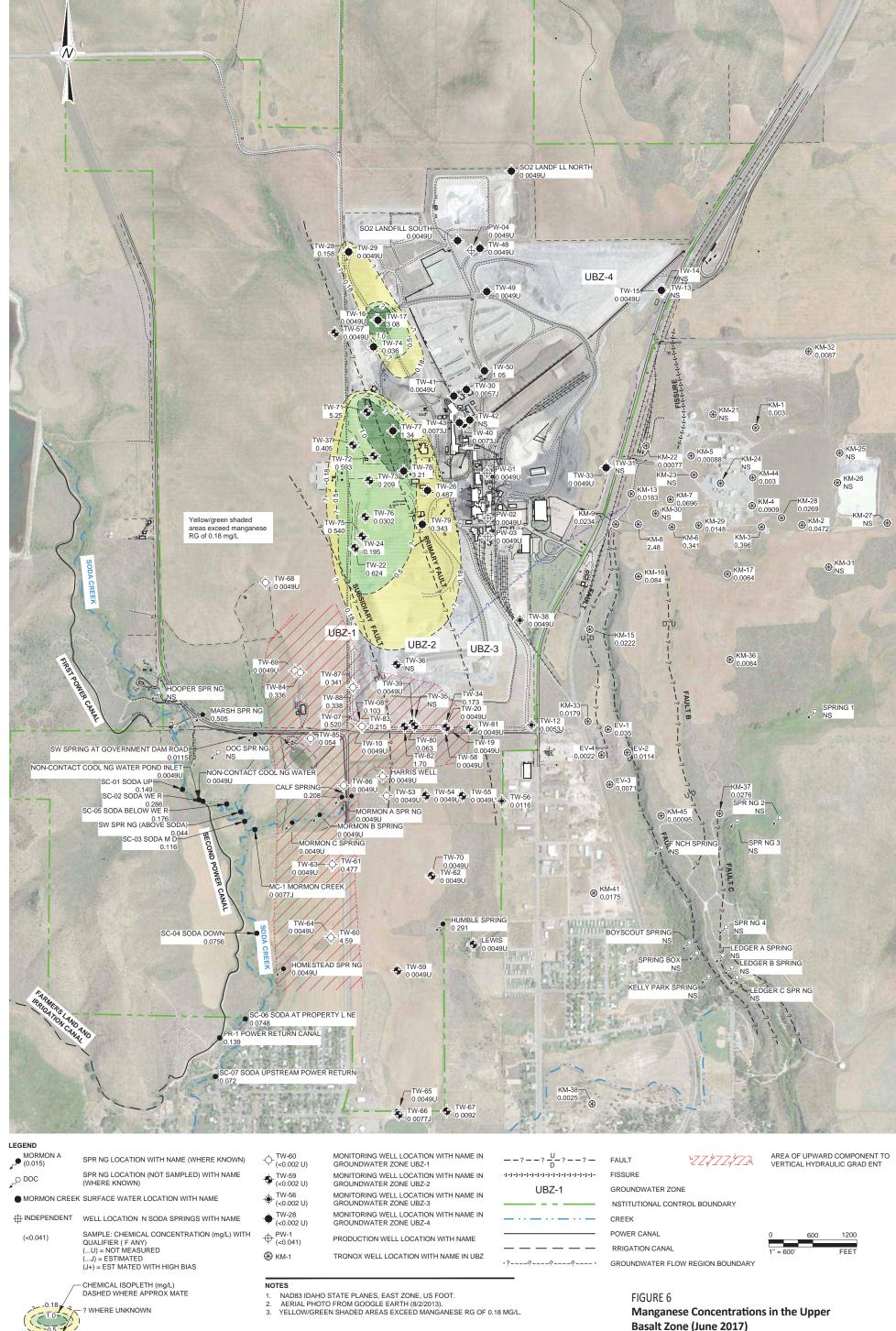
Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

Fluoride Concentrations in the Upper Basalt Zone (June 2017)

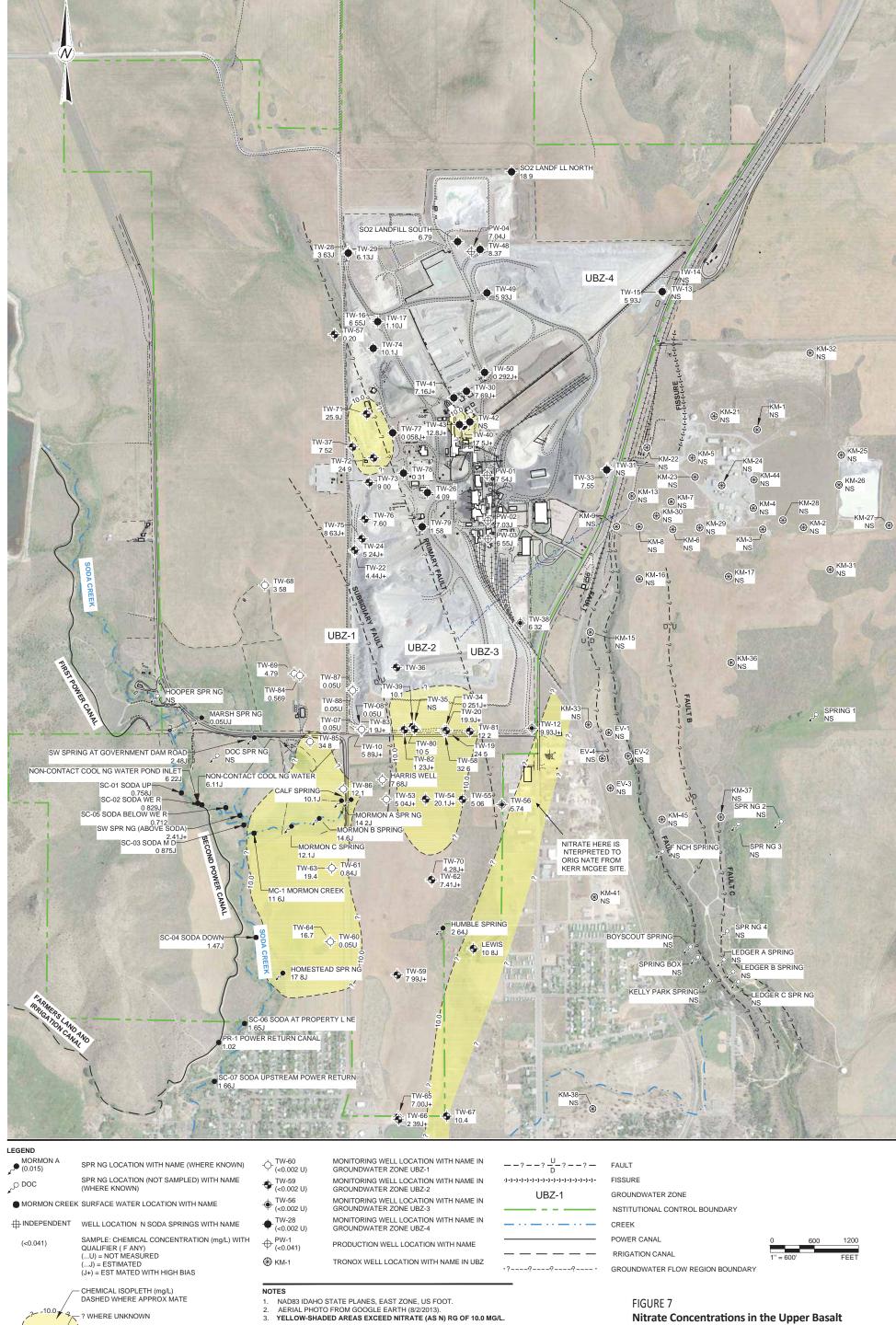
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

Basalt Zone (June 2017)

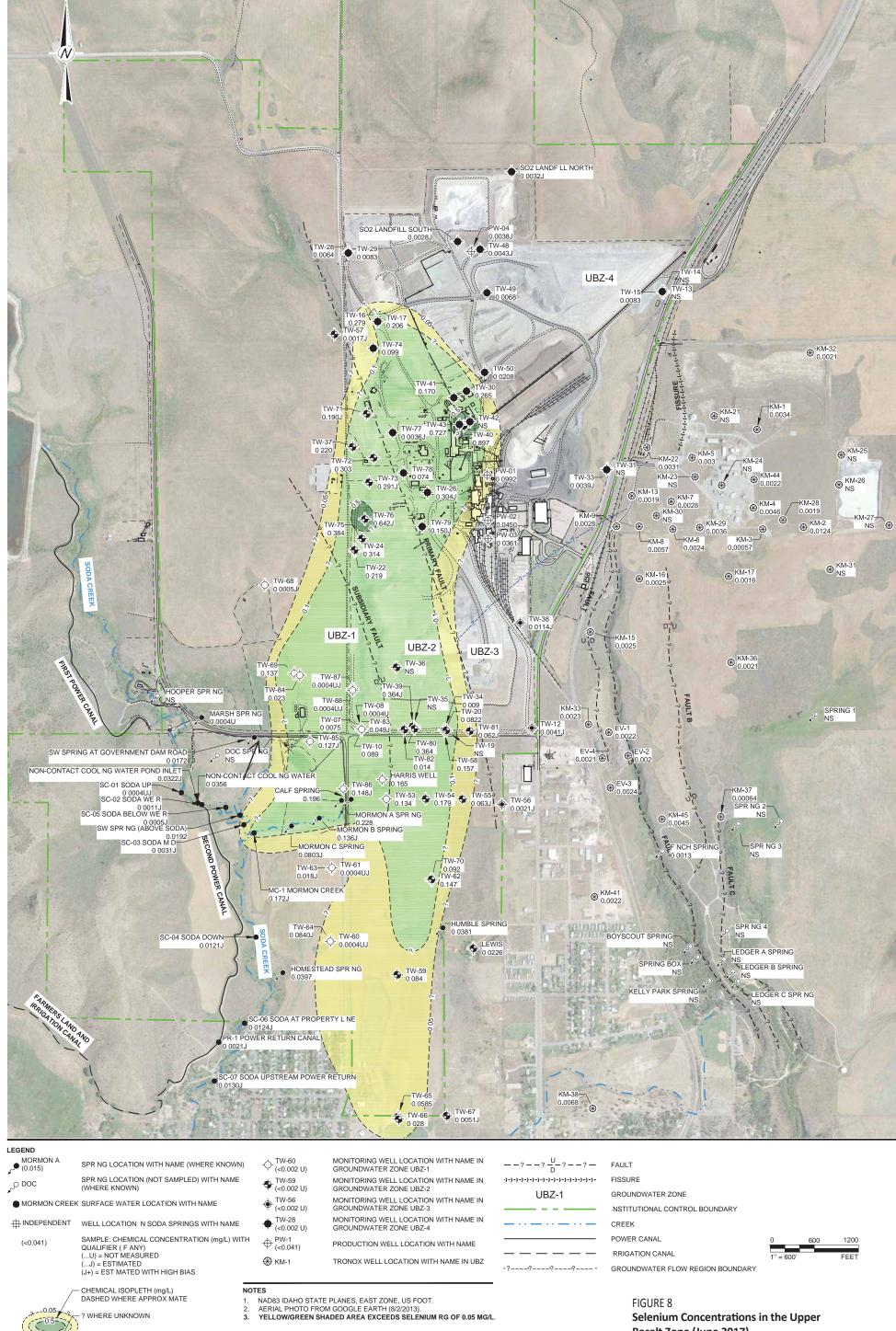
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

Nitrate Concentrations in the Upper Basalt Zone (June 2017)

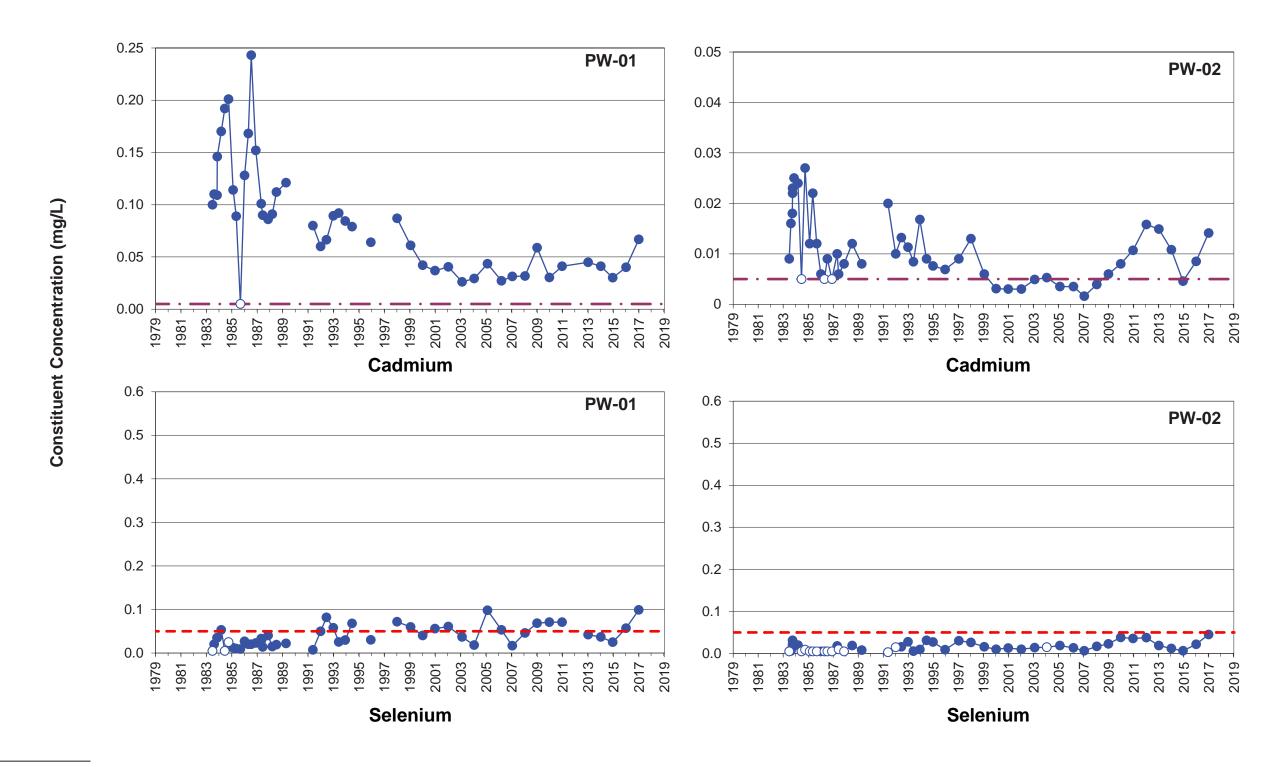
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

Basalt Zone (June 2017)

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho



--- Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

o Non-Detects

Cadmium Remediation Goal (0.005 mg/L)

___ Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

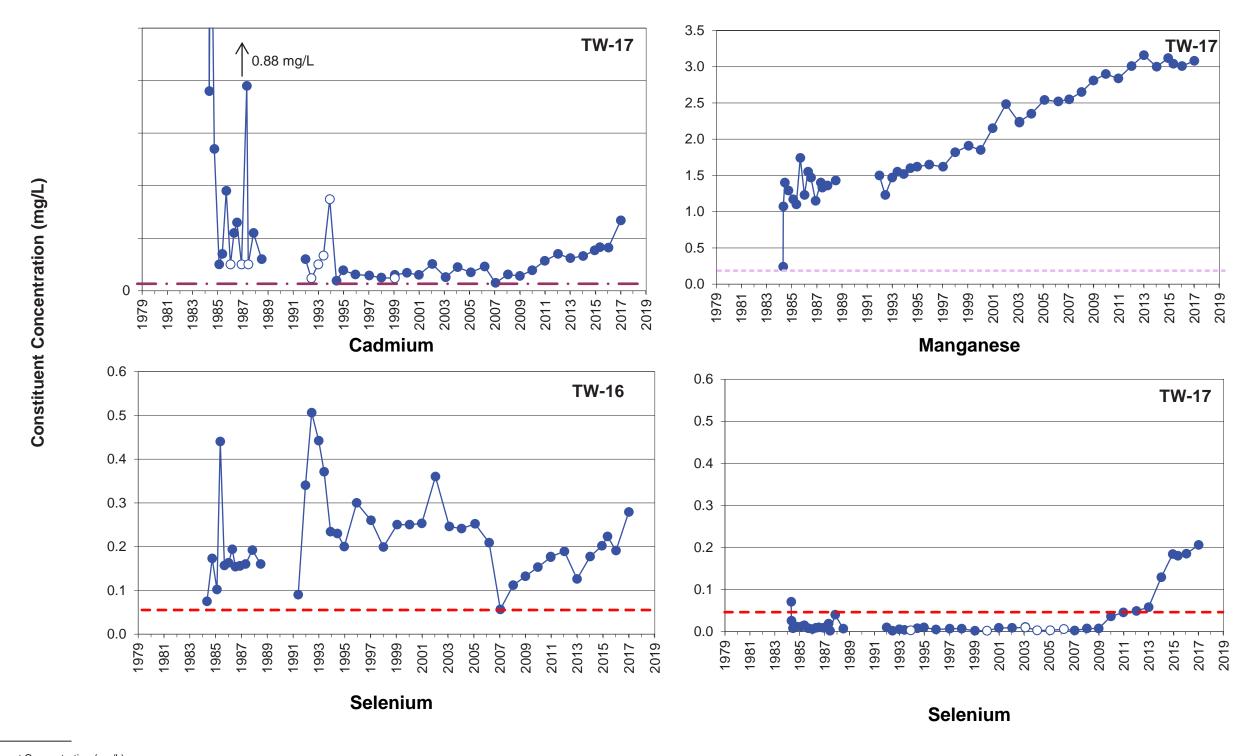
Figure 9.

Cadmium and Selenium in Production Wells (UBZ-4)

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

Caribou County, Idaho





Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

Non-Detects

--- Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

- - Cadmium Remediation Goal (0.005 mg/L)

Manganese Remediation Goal (0.18 mg/L)

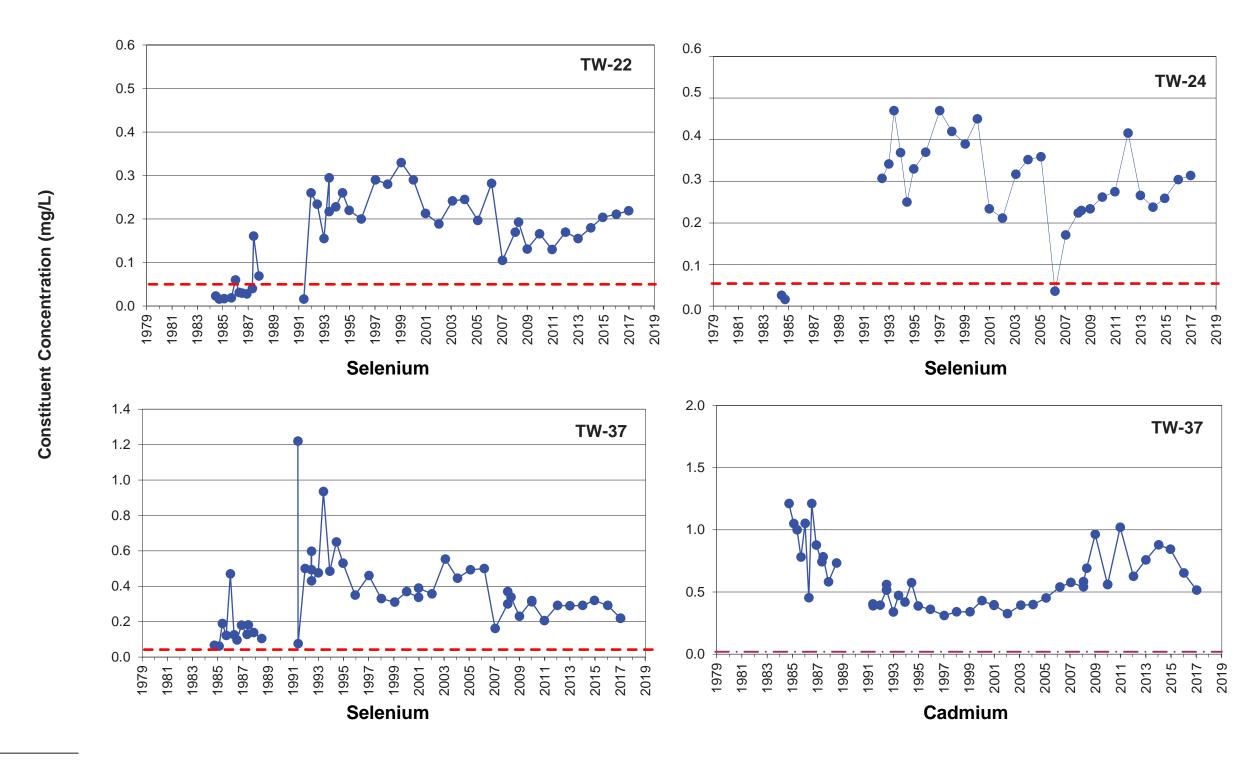
Figure 10.

Cadmium, Selenium, and Manganese in Northwest

Pond Wells (UBZ-4 Source Area)

Monsanto Site 2018 4th Five-Year Review

Caribou County, Idaho



--- Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

Non-Detects

--- Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

- - Cadmium Remediation Goal (0.005 mg/L)

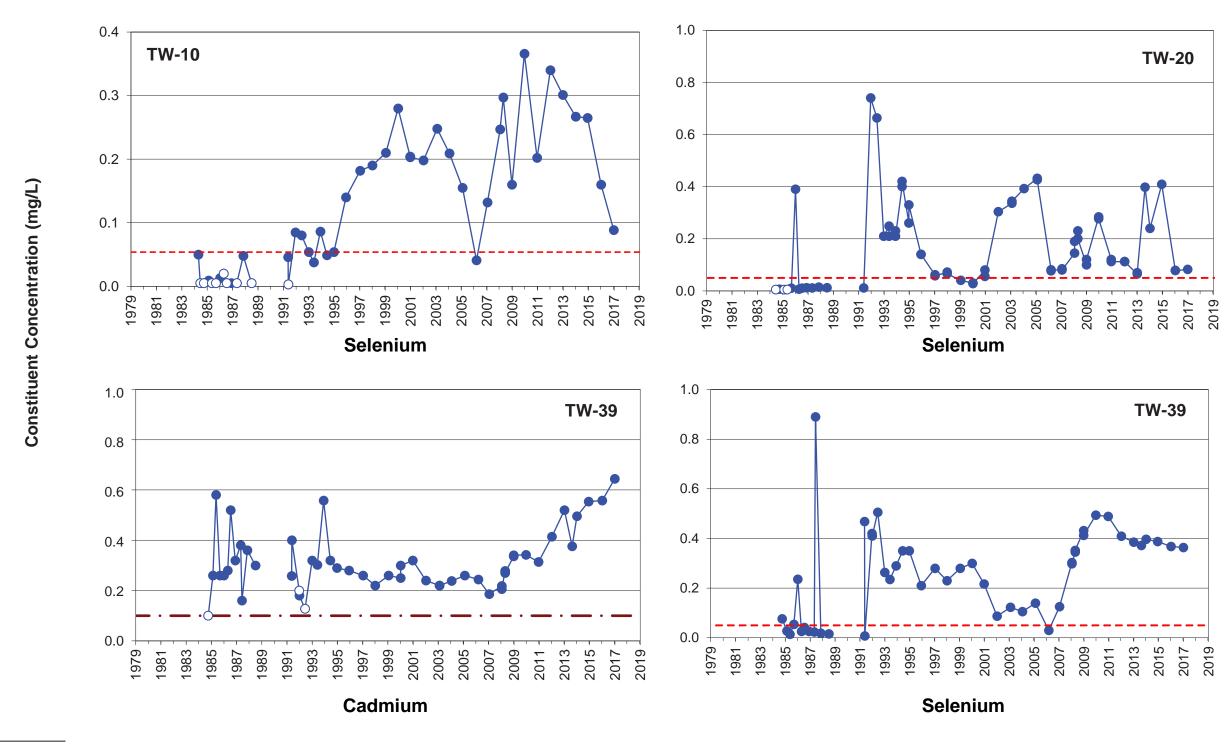
Figure 11.

Selenium and Cadmium Trends in Old Underflow Solids

Pond Area Wells (UBZ-2 Source Area) TW-22, -24, -37

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

Caribou County, Idaho



Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

Non-Detects

___ Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

Cadmium Remediation Goal (0.005 mg/L)

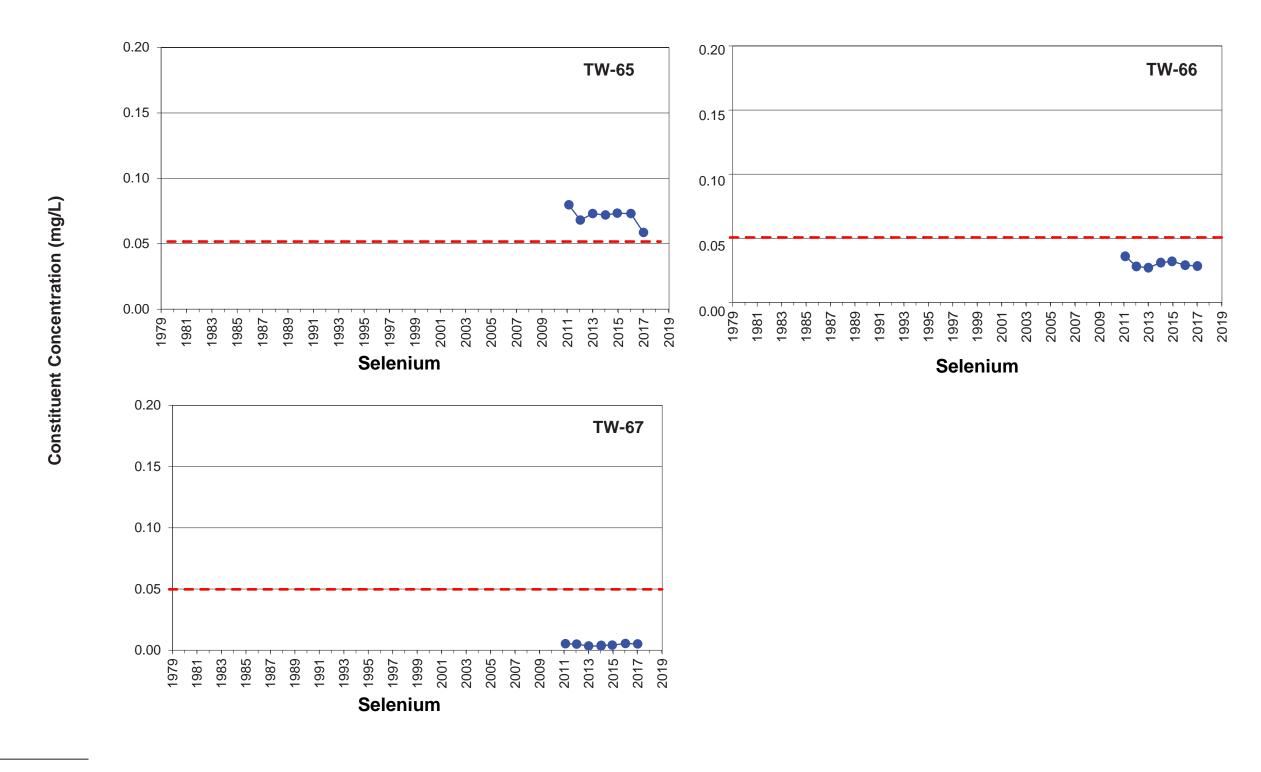
Figure 12.

Selenium and Cadmium Trends in South Fenceline and Southwest

Corner POC Wells (UBZ-1 and 2 Downgradient) TW-10, -20, -39

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

Caribou County, Idaho

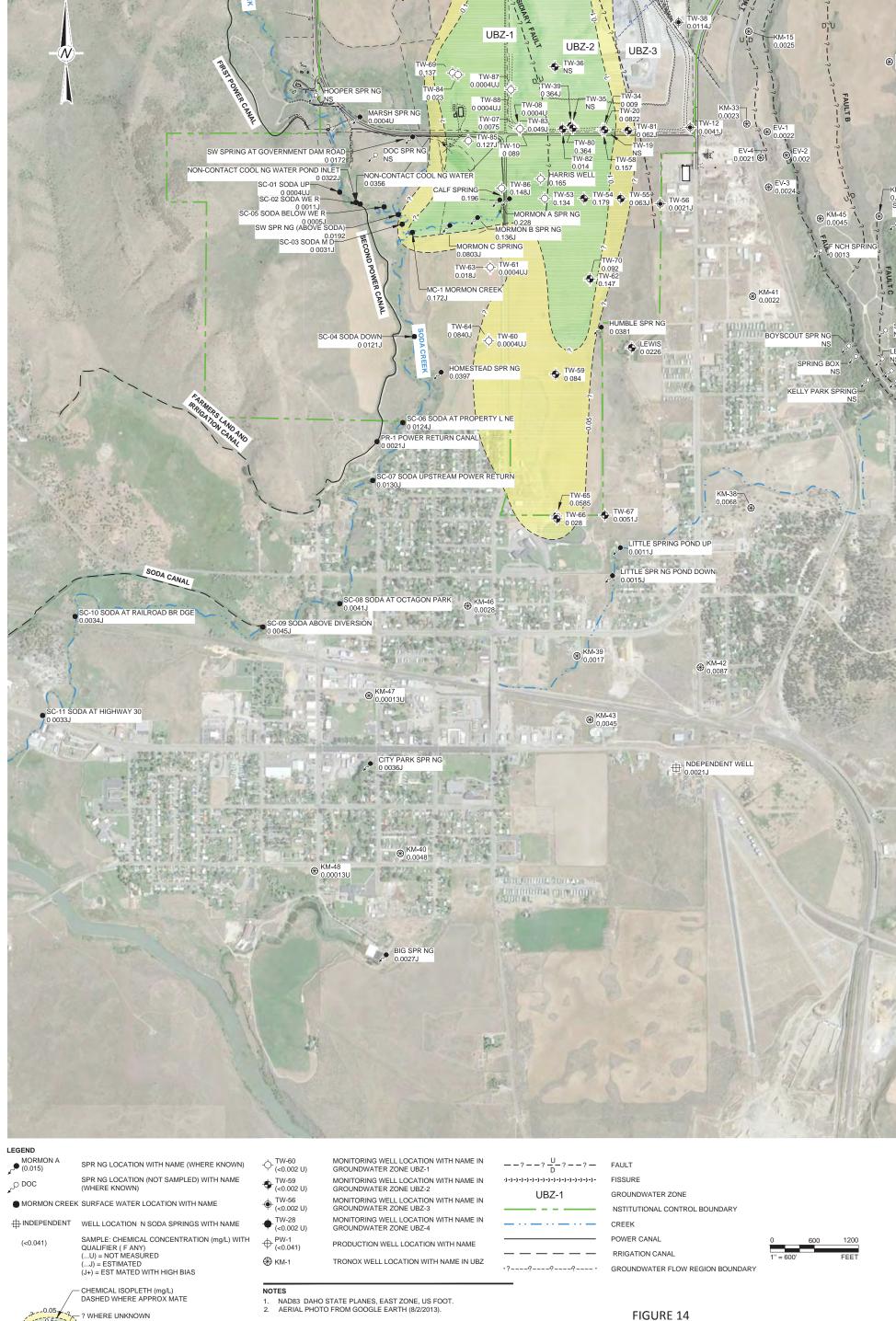


Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

Non-Detects

--- Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

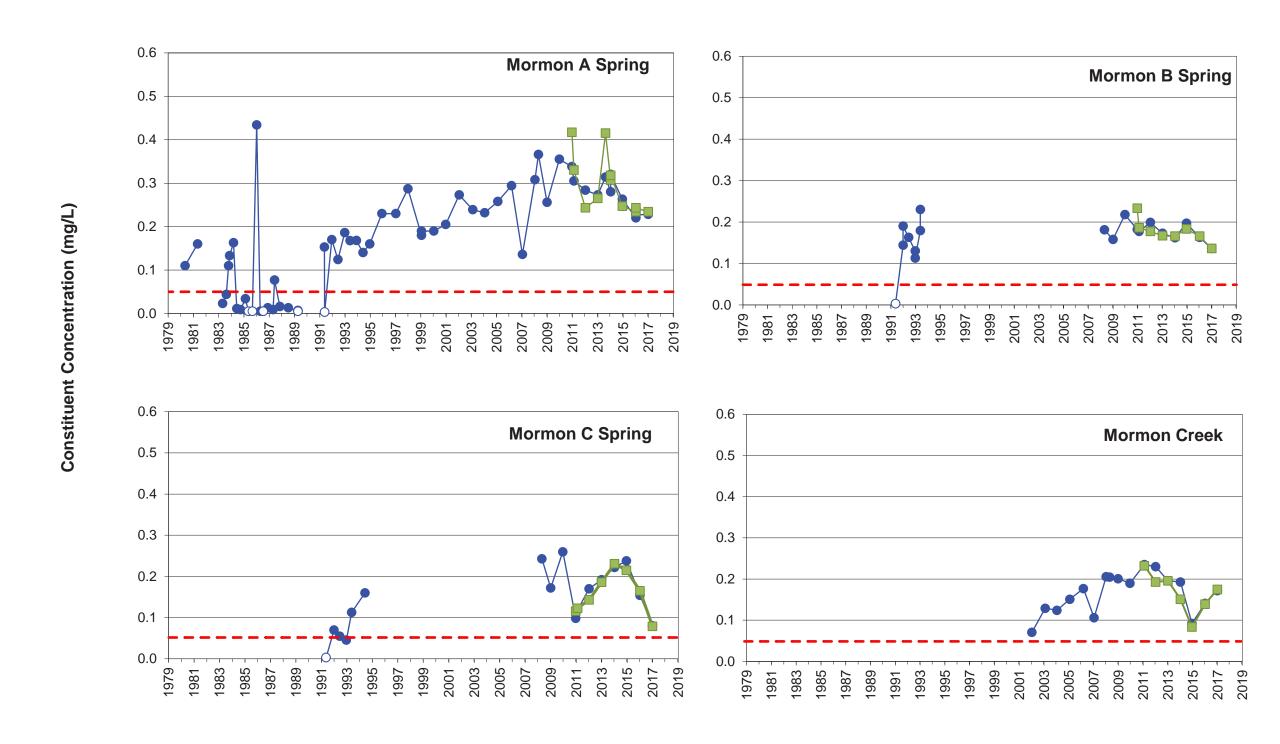
Figure 13.
Selenium Trends in UBZ-2 Wells at South Property Line (UBZ-1 and 2 Downgradient)
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review
Caribou County, Idaho



Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

Selenium Concentrations in Springs and Surface Water (Distribution)

Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





--- Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

Non-Detects

Dissolved Constituent Concentration (mg/L)

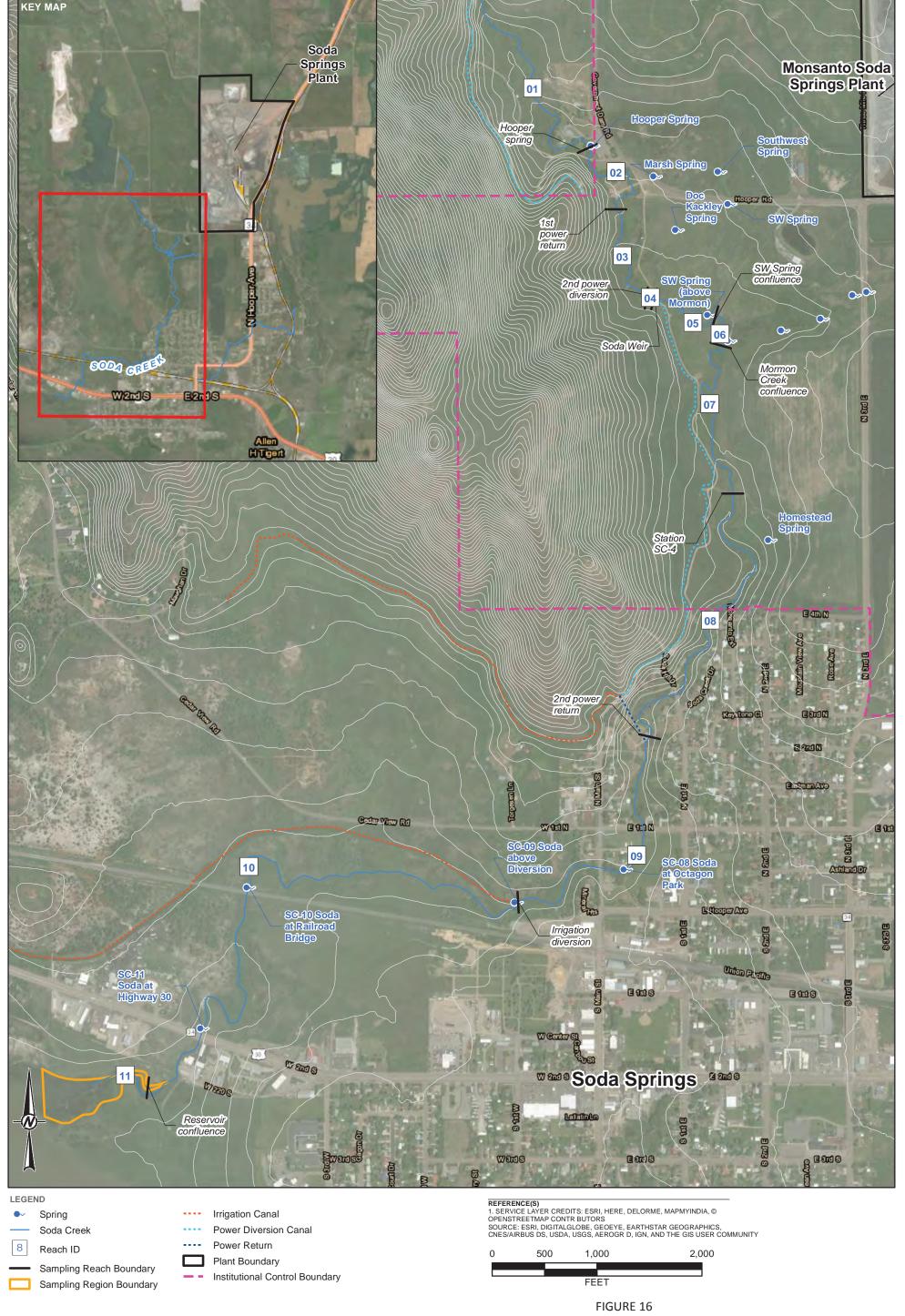
□ Dissolved Non-Detect (mg/L)

- - - Selenium Remediation Goal (0.05 mg/L)

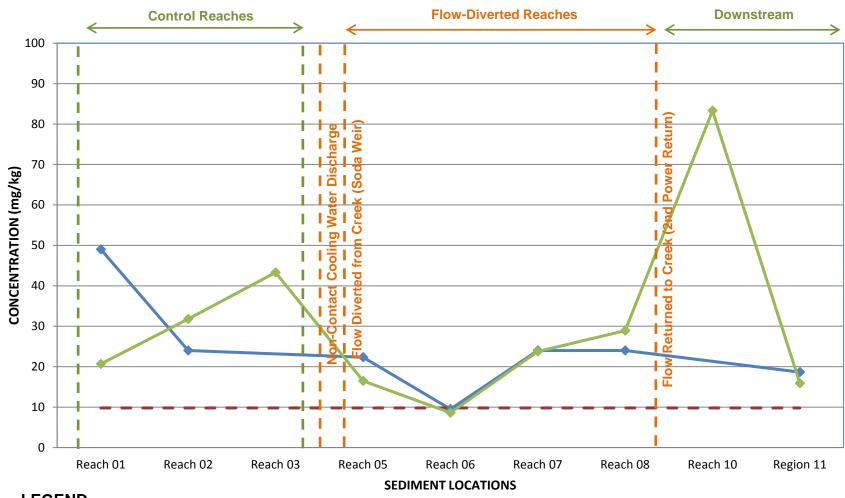
Figure 15.
Selenium Trends in Mormon A, B, and C Springs and Mormon Creek
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review

Caribou County, Idaho





Locations of the Sediment Sample Reaches in Soda Creek
Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review
Caribou County, Idaho



2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

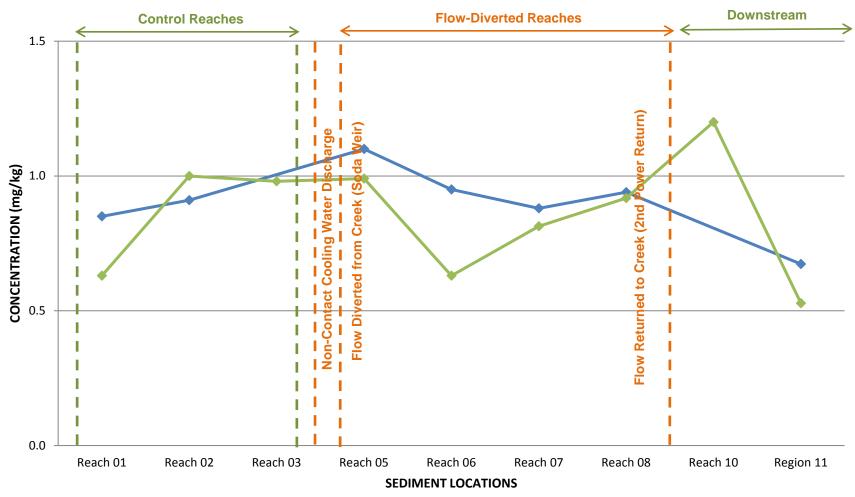
Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006) (mg/kg)
 Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 17

Arsenic Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

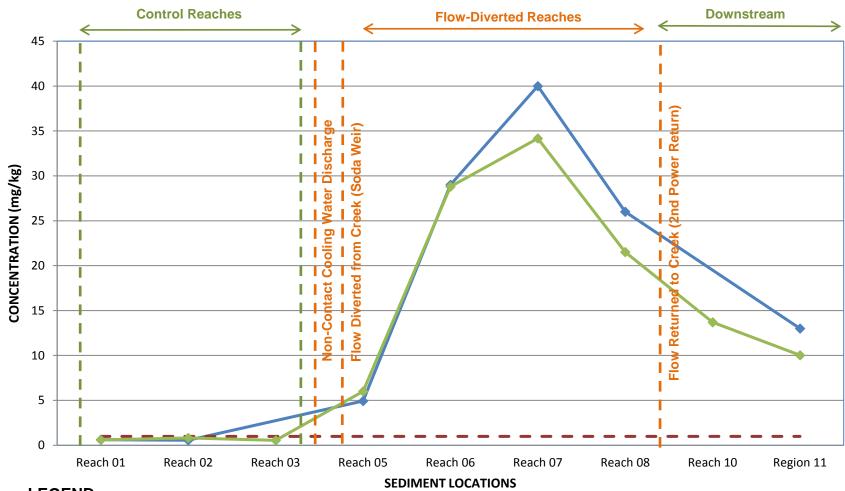
No Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 18

Beryllium Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

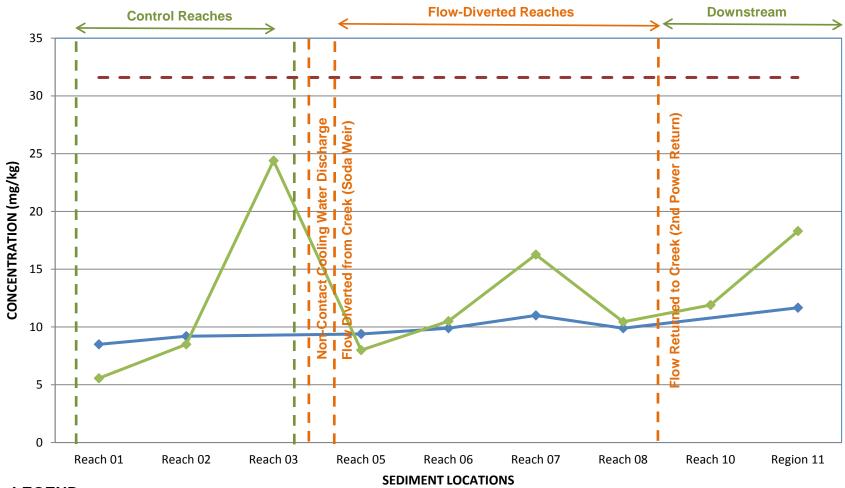
Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006) (mg/kg)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 19

Cadmium Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

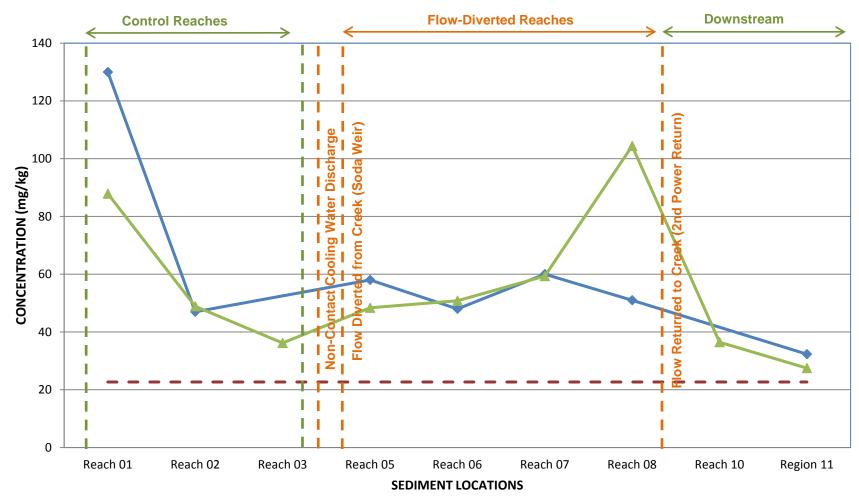
- - Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006) (mg/kg)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 20

Copper Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

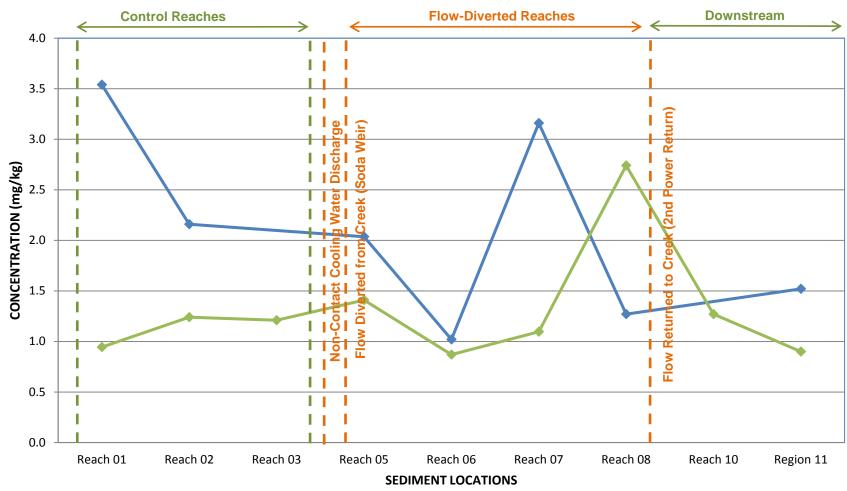
Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006) (mg/kg)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 21

Nickel Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





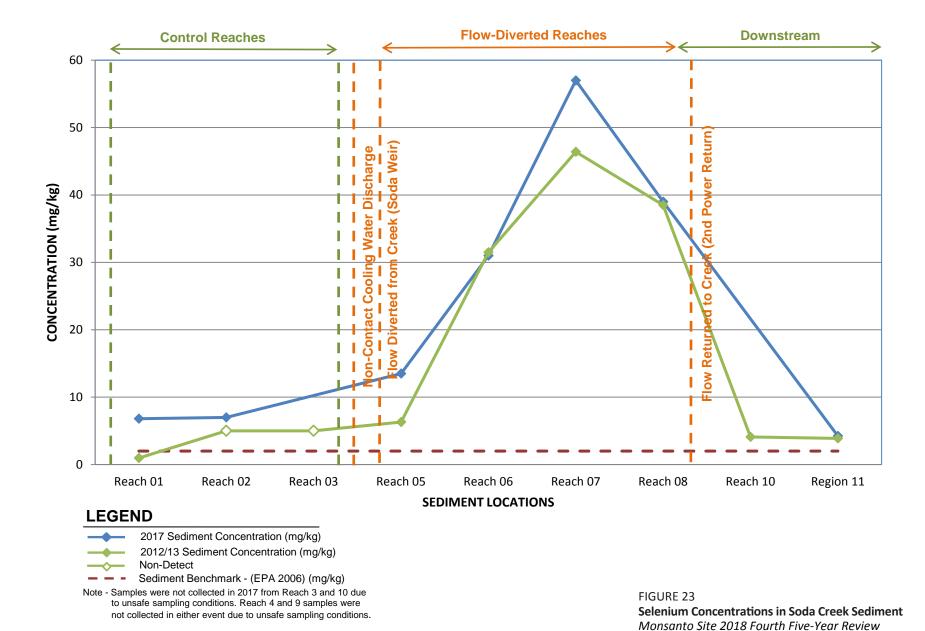
2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)
2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)
No Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 22

Polonium-210 Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho

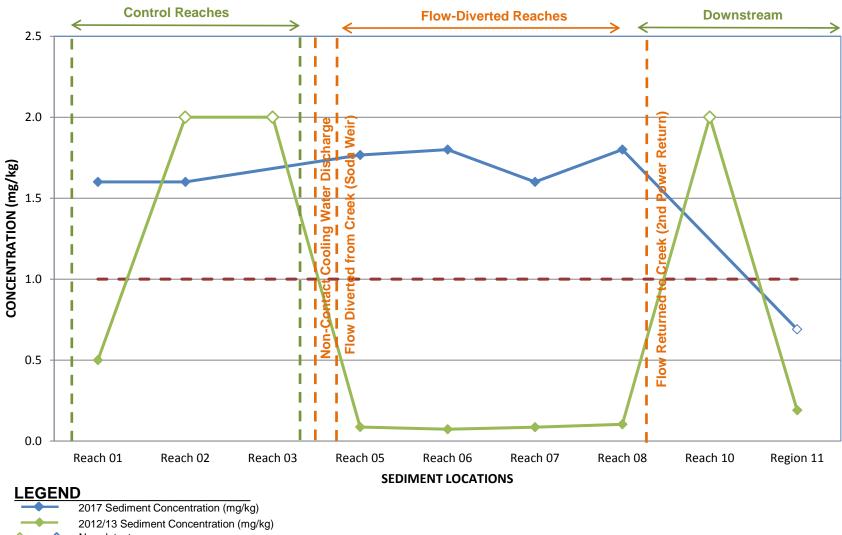




Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. *Soda Creek Sediment Sampling and Analysis Fourth CERCLA Five-Year Review, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant*. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.



Caribou County, Idaho

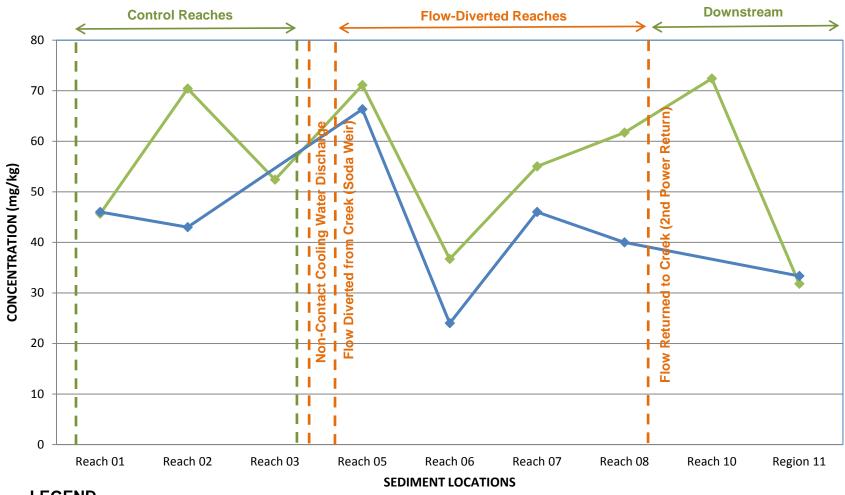


Non-detect Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006) (mg/kg)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 24 **Silver Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment** Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





2017 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

2012/13 Sediment Concentration (mg/kg)

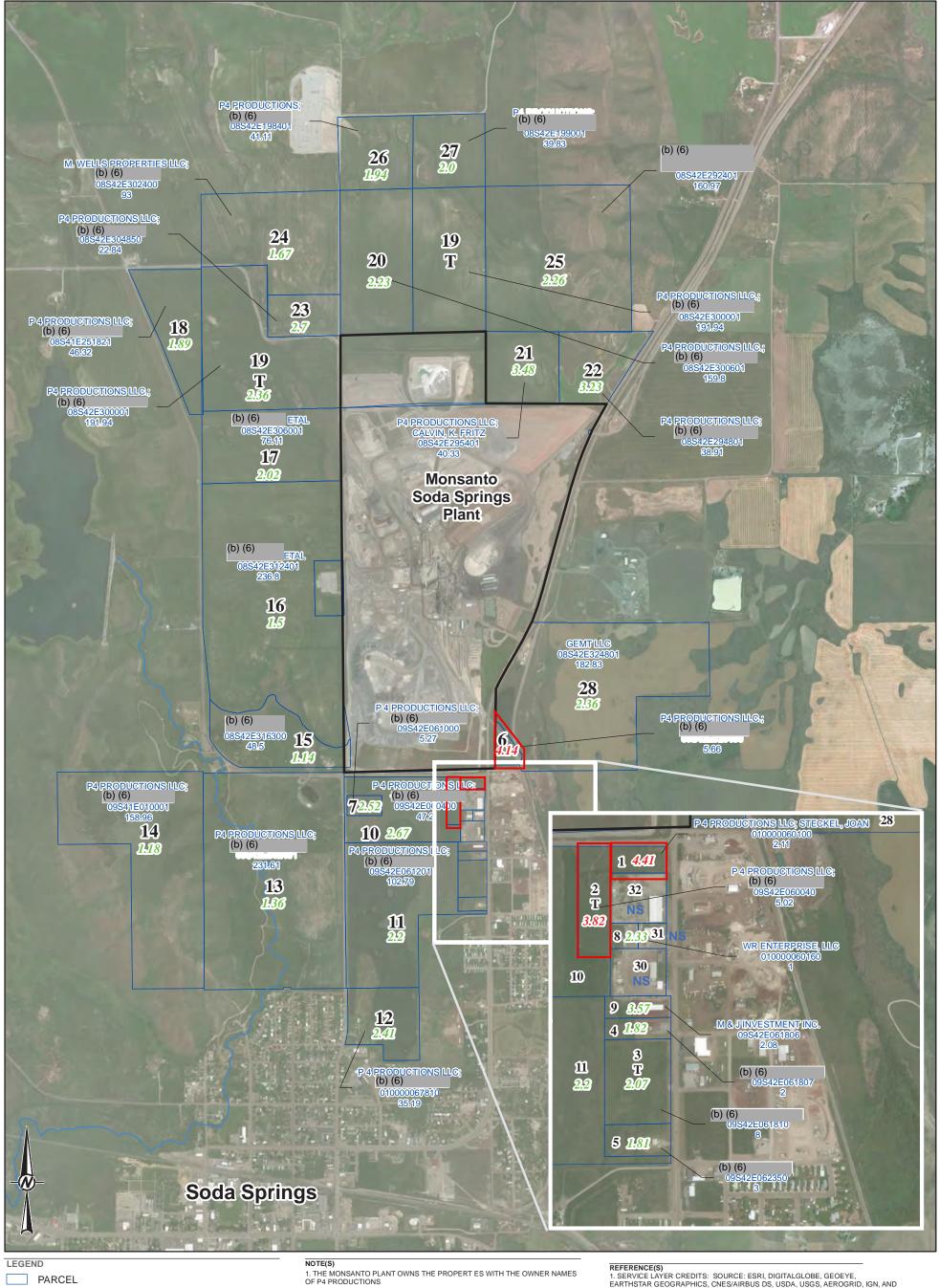
- No Sediment Benchmark - (EPA 2006)

Note - Samples were not collected in 2017 from Reach 3 and 10 due to unsafe sampling conditions. Reach 4 and 9 samples were not collected in either event due to unsafe sampling conditions.

FIGURE 25

Vanadium Concentrations in Soda Creek Sediment Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho





Radium-226 Fourth FYR (pCi/g) Result 1.81

PLANT BOUNDARY SODA CREEK

Radium-226 Fourth FYR (pCi/g) Result

3.82 Concentrations > remediation goal (3.71 pCi/g)

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

TRIPLICATE SAMPLES COLLECTED

P4 PRODUCTIONS PARCEL OWNER INFORMATION 010000067810 PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 35.9 PARCEL AREA (ACRES)

Source: Golder Associates Inc. 2018. Off-site Soil Sampling Report Fourth CERCLA Five-Year Review, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. Prepared for Monsanto Company. May.

REFERENCE(S)

1. SERVICE LAYER CREDITS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

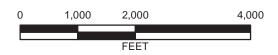
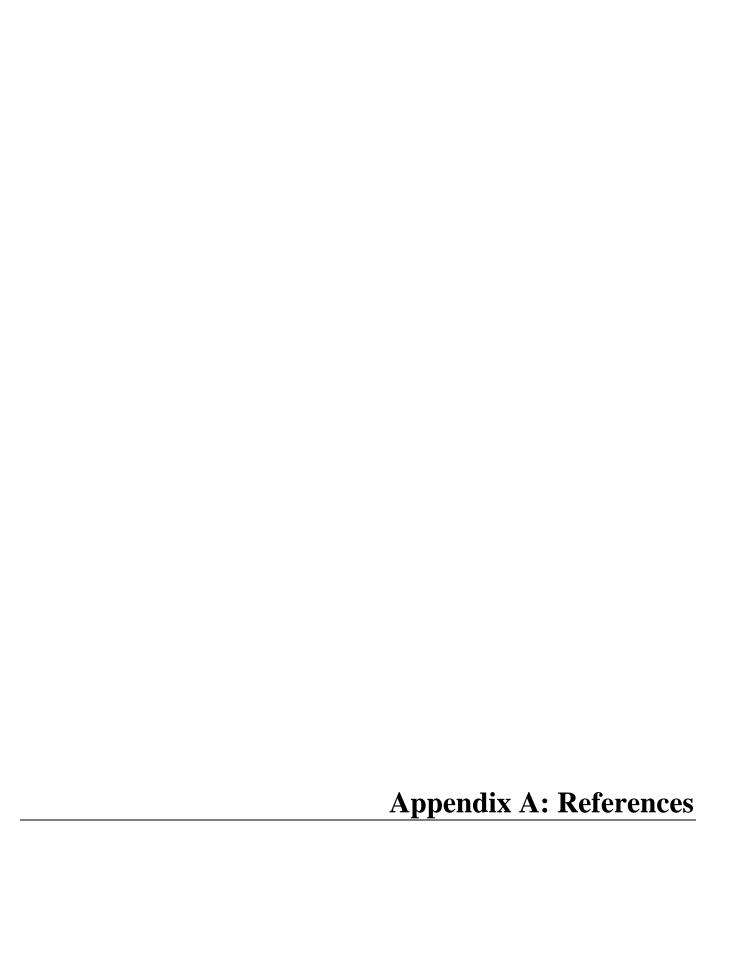


FIGURE 26 **Soil Sampling Parcels and Radium-226 Concentrations** Monsanto Site 2018 Fourth Five-Year Review Caribou County, Idaho

NS

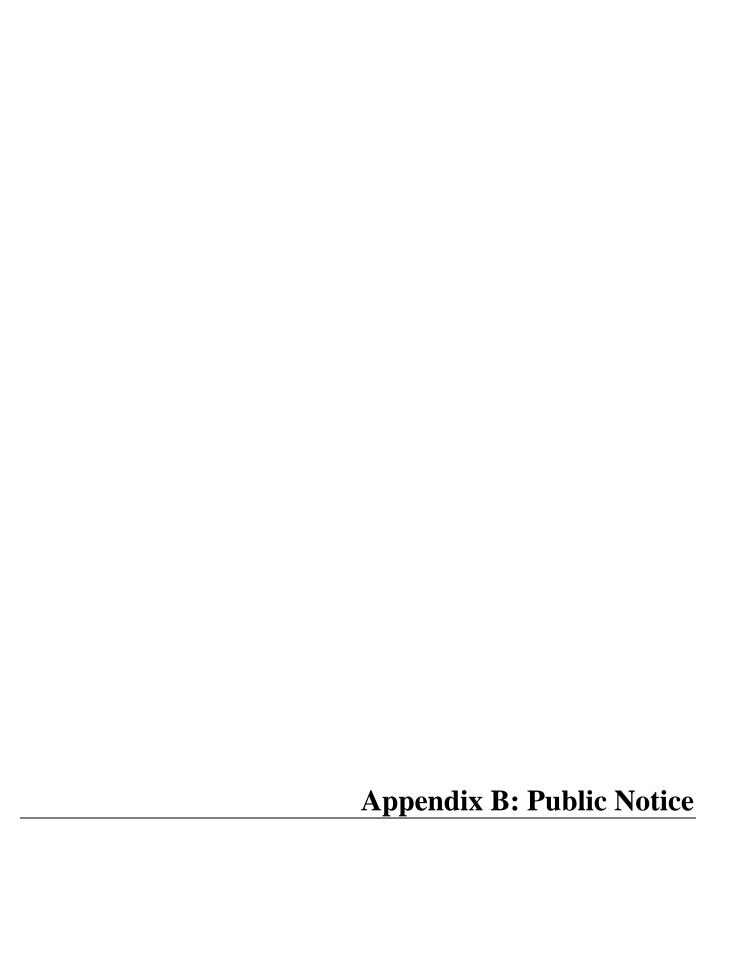
20

Т



- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 1998. May 1998 Groundwater Status Solutia Soda Springs Site, prepared for Monsanto Chemical Company by Golder Associates, Inc., Redmond, WA.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2008. Second Five-Year Review Report for Groundwater Conditions at the Monsanto Soda Springs Plant. July.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2013. Source Area Characterization UBZ-2, Phase 1, Monsanto Soda Springs Idaho Plant. July.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2015. Report on Domestic Well Survey and Water Quality Sampling, Monsanto Soda Springs Plant, ID. April.
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- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2018a. 2017 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions, Monsanto Company Soda Springs, Idaho Plant. May.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2018b. Soda Creek Sediment Sampling and Analysis, Fourth CERCLA Five-Year Review. May.
- Golder Associates, Inc. (Golder). 2018c. Off-Site Soil Sampling Report, Fourth CERCLA Five-Year Review. May.
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). 2018. *Caribou County Observation List*. Accessed July 11, 2018. https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/taxa/list/county/caribou.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. United States Census Bureau. Accessed June 11, 2018. http://www.census.gov/.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2017. *Technical Review Comments*, 2016 Summary Report on Groundwater Conditions at the Monsanto Soda Springs Idaho Plant. Submitted to Monsanto Chemical Company. July.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2013. Third Five-Year Review Report For Monsanto Chemical Co. (Soda Springs Phosphorous Plant) Superfund Site Caribou County, Idaho. Prepared by CH2M HILL, Boise, Idaho. Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, Seattle, Washington, August.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2008. Second Five-Year Review Report for Monsanto Chemical Co. (Soda Springs Plant). EPA ID: IDD081830994. Caribou County, Idaho. Prepared by U.S. EPA Region 10, Seattle, Washington. August.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2006. Freshwater Sediment Screening Benchmarks.

 https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/r3 btag fw sediment benchmarks 8-06.pdf.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2003. *Guidance for Developing Ecological Soil Screening Levels* (*Eco-SSLs*). OSWER Directive 92857-55.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 1997. EPA Superfund Record of Decision: Monsanto Chemical Co. (Soda Springs Plant) EPA ID: IDD081830994, OU 01, Soda Springs, Idaho. 04/30/1997.





Cleanup Review Underway Monsanto Chemical Co. Soda Springs Plant Public Input Welcomed

EPA Would Like Your Feedback

The 2018 review for Monsanto Soda Springs Plant is now underway and scheduled to be completed by September. EPA reviews Superfund sites every five years to assess cleanup progress and identify any additional actions that might be needed. As part of the review, EPA would like to hear from the community. If you have anything you would like us to consider during our review or if you have questions, please contact Kathryn Cerise, EPA Project Manager, no later than July 1, 2018.

Evaluation of Cleanup Measures

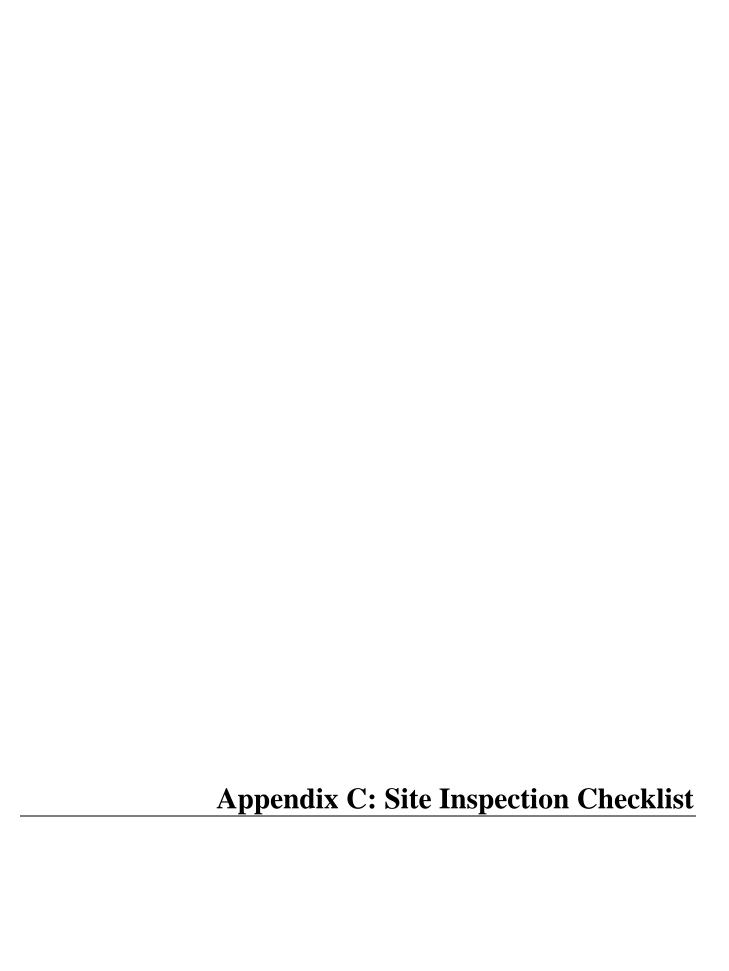
The Monsanto Soda Springs Plant is an active phosphate processing facility. Soils and groundwater were contaminated with hazardous chemicals including radium-226 in soil, and fluoride, cadmium, manganese, nitrate, and selenium in groundwater. The cleanup actions for the soil contamination at the site are complete. The plan for groundwater is to control the suspected sources of contamination, then allow the groundwater to recover naturally. Regular sampling and monitoring of groundwater track the results. This is referred to as "monitored natural attenuation." Data show decreasing levels of contamination but not as fast as expected. Since the last review in 2013, additional studies have been done to learn why contaminants in groundwater are not decreasing at the rates originally expected. Information from these studies will be included in the 2018 Monsanto Five-Year Review Report out in September.

Contact EPA: Kathy Cerise, EPA Project Manager, at cerise.kathryn@epa.gov or 206-553-2589 or toll free 800-424-4372 ext. 2589.

For more information:

Visit the site page: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/monsanto-soda-springs
2017 EPA Selenium Fact Sheet: https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/10/100049057
2013 Monsanto 3rd Five-Year Review: https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/10/690731
Visit the library: Soda Springs Public Library, 149 S. Main, 208-547-2606

TDD and/or TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Please give the operator phone number 206-553-2589, for Kathryn Cerise.



Five-Year Review Site Inspection Checklist

I. SITE INF	ORMATION
Site name: Monsanto Chemical Company, Soda Springs Phosphorous Plant	Date of inspection: June 6, 2018
Location and Region: Soda Springs, ID, Region X	EPA ID: IDD08180994
Agency, office, or company leading the five-year review: EPA/CH2M HILL	Weather/temperature: Sunny, 70s
□ Access controls □ C	Monitored natural attenuation Groundwater containment Vertical barrier walls
Attachments: □ Inspection team roster attached	☐ Site map attached
II. INTERVIEWS	(Check all that apply)
1. O&M site managerJason MaughanName Interviewed x at site □ at office □ by phone Phone Problems, suggestions; □ Report attached	Title Date no. 208-240-1540
4. Other interviews (optional) □ Report attached.	
III. ON-SITE DOCUMENTS & RECO	ORDS VERIFIED (Check all that apply)
☐ As-built drawings ☐ F	Readily available
2. Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan X Contingency plan/emergency response plan Remarks: Monsanto plant (active facility) has E	
3. O&M and OSHA Training Records X F Remarks: Site is active phosphorous plant. No	Readily available

4.	Permits and Service Agreements X Air discharge permit X Effluent discharge	x Readily available x Readily available	x Up to date x Up to date	□ N/A □ N/A
	X Waste disposal, POTW ☐ Other permits Remarks	<u>•</u>	☐ Up to date ☐ Up to date	□ N/A □ N/A
5.	T	□ Readily available □ Up	to date <u>x N/A</u>	
6.	Settlement Monument Records Remarks	□ Readily available	□ Up to date	x N/A
7.	Groundwater Monitoring Record Remarks: Copies of annual GW a		☐ Up to date site and available	□ N/A for review.
8.	Leachate Extraction Records Remarks: _Manage solids from en	□ Readily available nvironmental control system.	□ Up to date	x N/A
9.	Discharge Compliance Records x Air x Water (effluent) Remarks: Kept on site and availal	☐ Readily available ☐ Readily available ble for review	□ Up to date □ Up to date	□ N/A □ N/A
10.	Daily Access/Security Logs Remarks: Site is active 24-7, fence	x Readily available ed/gated, and has sign in/sign ou	□ Up to date t and full-time sec	□ N/A curity staff

	IV. O&M COSTS
1.	O&M Organization ☐ State in-house ☐ Contractor for State x PRP in-house
2.	O&M Cost Records Readily available
3.	Unanticipated or Unusually High O&M Costs During Review Period Describe costs and reasons: None to report
	V. ACCESS AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS □ Applicable □ N/A
A. Fe	ncing
1.	Fencing damaged □ Location shown on site map □ Gates secured x N/A Remarks: Monsanto maintains fences.
B. Ot	her Access Restrictions
1.	Signs and other security measures ☐ Location shown on site map x N/A Remarks: Monsanto maintains signs. Only access is through front gate via security guards.

C.	Institutional Controls (ICs)	
1.	Implementation and enforcement Site conditions imply ICs properly implemented x Yes No N/A Site conditions imply ICs being fully enforced x Yes No N/A Type of monitoring (e.g., self-reporting, drive by) Self monitored, Restrictive Deeds in Place, conducted domestic well survey to confirm no use of impacted groundwater. Frequency: Continuous Responsible party/agency: PRP (Monsanto), Greenfield Environmental Trust, DEQ, EPA. Contact Jason Maughan Regulatory Specialist June 6, 2018 Name Title Date Phone no.	
	Reporting is up-to-date Reports are verified by the lead agency Yes No x N/A	
	Violations have been reported Other problems or suggestions: Report attached Yes No X N/A Yes No X N/A	
2.	Adequacy x ICs are adequate □ ICs are inadequate □ N/A Remarks	
D.	General	
1.	Vandalism/trespassing □ Location shown on site map x No vandalism evident Remarks	
2.	Land use changes on site <u>x N/A</u> Remarks: <u>The site is an active phosphorous processing facility, continued production will result in additional UFS, slag, SO2, treater dust, coke as part of processing. Otherwise, plant continues normal operations.</u>	
3.	Land use changes off site □ N/A Remarks: Still farming surrounding buffer property within IC boundary.	
	VI. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS	
Α.	Roads X Applicable □ N/A	
1.	Roads damaged □ Location shown on site map x Roads adequate □ N/A Remarks □	

B. Ot	her Site Conditions		
	Remarks <u>Continue fugitive</u> cover materials for plants of	e dust control, discontinued Mg on UFS piles.	CL for dust control, plot tested
	VII. LAN	DFILL COVERS Applicable	x N/A
A. La	ndfill Surface		
1.	Settlement (Low spots) Areal extent Remarks	☐ Location shown on site map Depth	□ Settlement not evident
2.	Cracks Lengths Widt Remarks	☐ Location shown on site map	9
3.	Erosion Areal extent Remarks	☐ Location shown on site map Depth	□ Erosion not evident
4.	Holes Areal extent Remarks	☐ Location shown on site map Depth	☐ Holes not evident
5.	☐ Trees/Shrubs (indicate size an	ass Cover properly estable and locations on a diagram)	-
6.	Alternative Cover (armored r Remarks	ock, concrete, etc.) \square N/A	
7.	Bulges Areal extent Remarks	☐ Location shown on site map Height	□ Bulges not evident

8.	Wet Areas/Water Damage ☐ Wet areas ☐ Ponding ☐ Seeps ☐ Soft subgrade Remarks	☐ Wet areas/water damage not evident ☐ Location shown on site map Areal extent ☐ Location shown on site map
9.	Slope Instability	1 1 7
B. Ber	(Horizontally constructed mo	le \square N/A unds of earth placed across a steep landfill side slope to interrupt the slope ocity of surface runoff and intercept and convey the runoff to a lined
1.	Flows Bypass Bench Remarks	□ Location shown on site map □ N/A or okay
2.	Bench Breached Remarks	□ Location shown on site map □ N/A or okay
3.	Bench Overtopped Remarks	□ Location shown on site map □ N/A or okay
C. Let		control mats, riprap, grout bags, or gabions that descend down the steep side low the runoff water collected by the benches to move off of the landfill
1.	Areal extent	Location shown on site map No evidence of settlement Depth
2.	Material type	Location shown on site map No evidence of degradation Areal extent
3.	Areal extent	Location shown on site map No evidence of erosion Depth

4.	Undercutting ☐ Location shown on site map ☐ No evidence of undercutting Areal extent ☐ Depth ☐ Remarks ☐ Depth ☐ Dep	
5.	Obstructions Type	
6.	Excessive Vegetative Growth No evidence of excessive growth Vegetation in channels does not obstruct flow Location shown on site map Remarks	
D. Cov	ver Penetrations \square Applicable \square N/A	
1.	Gas Vents □ Active□ Passive □ Properly secured/locked □ Functioning □ Routinely sampled □ Good condition □ Evidence of leakage at penetration □ Needs Maintenance □ N/A Remarks	
2.	Gas Monitoring Probes □ Properly secured/locked □ Functioning □ Routinely sampled □ Good condition □ Evidence of leakage at penetration □ Needs Maintenance □ N/A Remarks	
3.	Monitoring Wells (within surface area of landfill) □ Properly secured/locked □ Functioning □ Routinely sampled □ Good condition □ Evidence of leakage at penetration □ Needs Maintenance □ N/A Remarks	
4.	Leachate Extraction Wells □ Properly secured/locked □ Functioning □ Routinely sampled □ Good condition □ Evidence of leakage at penetration □ Needs Maintenance □ N/A Remarks □	
5.	Settlement Monuments □ Located □ Routinely surveyed □ N/A Remarks	

E. Gas Collection and Treatment	□ Appli	cable □ N/A			
1. Gas Treatment Facilities □ Flaring □ Therma □ Good condition□ Needs 1 Remarks	al destruction Maintenance	□ Collection for	reuse		
2. Gas Collection Wells, Ma ☐ Good condition☐ Needs Remarks	Maintenance				
3. Gas Monitoring Facilities □ Good condition □ Needs □ Remarks	Maintenance	□ N/A	_		
F. Cover Drainage Layer	\Box Appl	licable □ N/A			
1. Outlet Pipes Inspected Remarks	□ Func	ctioning	□ N/A		
2. Outlet Rock Inspected Remarks	□Func	etioning	□ N/A		
G. Detention/Sedimentation Pond	s \square Appl	icable \square N/A			
1. Siltation Areal extent □ Siltation not evident Remarks		Depth		□ N/A	
2. Erosion Areal ext □ Erosion not evident Remarks		Depth			_
3. Outlet Works Remarks	☐ Functioning	□ N/A			_
4. Dam [Remarks	☐ Functioning	□ N/A			

H.	Retaining Walls	☐ Applicable	□ N/A		
1.	Deformations Horizontal displacement_ Rotational displacement_ Remarks			☐ Deformation not evident cement	
2.	Degradation Remarks	☐ Location show	-	□ Degradation not evident	
I. I	Perimeter Ditches/Off-Site Di	scharge	☐ Applicable	□ N/A	
1.	Siltation □ Loca Areal extent Remarks			not evident	
2.	Vegetative Growth ☐ Vegetation does not im Areal extent Remarks	pede flow Type		□ N/A	
3.	Erosion Areal extentRemarks			□ Erosion not evident	
4.	Discharge Structure Remarks	C	□ N/A		
	VIII. VE	RTICAL BARRI	ER WALLS	□ Applicable <u>x N/A</u>	
1.	Settlement Areal extent Remarks	☐ Location show Depth_	vn on site map	□ Settlement not evident	
2.	Performance Monitorin □ Performance not monit Frequency Head differential Remarks	ored	□ Evidenc	e of breaching	

	IX. GROUNDWATER/SURFACE WATER REMEDIES \Box Applicable \Box N/A
A. Gro	oundwater Extraction Wells, Pumps, and Pipelines □ Applicable <u>x N/A</u>
1.	Pumps, Wellhead Plumbing, and Electrical ☐ Good condition☐ All required wells properly operating ☐ Needs Maintenance ☐ N/A Remarks: Extraction wells operating as part of RI/FS activities; continue to collect data on water quality improvements
2.	Extraction System Pipelines, Valves, Valve Boxes, and Other Appurtenances Good condition Needs Maintenance Remarks
3.	Spare Parts and Equipment ☐ Readily available ☐ Good condition☐ Requires upgrade ☐ Needs to be provided Remarks
B. Sur	face Water Collection Structures, Pumps, and Pipelines □ Applicable <u>x N/A</u>
1.	Collection Structures, Pumps, and Electrical ☐ Good condition☐ Needs Maintenance Remarks
2.	Surface Water Collection System Pipelines, Valves, Valve Boxes, and Other Appurtenances Good condition Needs Maintenance Remarks
3.	Spare Parts and Equipment □ Readily available □ Good condition□ Requires upgrade □ Needs to be provided Remarks

C. Trea	tment System □ Applicable <u>x N/A</u>	
1.	Treatment Train (Check components that apply) ☐ Metals removal ☐ Oil/water separation ☐ Bioremediation ☐ Air stripping ☐ Carbon adsorbers ☐ Filters ☐ Additive (e.g., chelation agent, flocculent) ☐ Others ☐ Good condition ☐ Needs Maintenance ☐ Sampling ports properly marked and functional ☐ Sampling/maintenance log displayed and up to date	- -
	□ Equipment properly identified □ Quantity of groundwater treated annually □ Quantity of surface water treated annually Remarks	
2.	Electrical Enclosures and Panels (properly rated and functional) □ N/A □ Good condition□ Needs Maintenance Remarks	
3.	Tanks, Vaults, Storage Vessels □ N/A □ Good condition□ Proper secondary containment □ Needs Maintenance Remarks	
4.	Discharge Structure and Appurtenances □ N/A □ Good condition□ Needs Maintenance Remarks	
5.	Treatment Building(s) □ N/A □ Good condition (esp. roof and doorways) □ Needs repair □ Chemicals and equipment properly stored Remarks	
6.	Monitoring Wells (pump and treatment remedy) □ Properly secured/locked □ Functioning □ Routinely sampled □ Good condition □ All required wells located □ Needs Maintenance □ N/A Remarks	
D. Mon	toring Data	
1.	Monitoring Data X Is routinely submitted on time X Is of acceptable quality	
2.	Monitoring data suggests: some COCs are stable, some are migrating ☐ Groundwater plume is effectively contained ☐ Contaminant concentrations are declining	

1.	onitored Natural Attenuation Monitoring Wolls (natural attenuation remody)
1.	Monitoring Wells (natural attenuation remedy) X Properly secured/locked X Functioning X Routinely sampled X Good condition
	X All required wells located \square Needs Maintenance \square N/A
	Remarks: Monitoring well network sampled and maintained annually.
	X. OTHER REMEDIES
	If there are remedies applied at the site which are not covered above, attach an inspection sheet describing the physical nature and condition of any facility associated with the remedy. An example would be soil vapor extraction.
	No other remedial actions for soils, air, surface water, sediment. 5YR monitoring required for sediment and off-site soil.
	XI. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS
A.	Implementation of the Remedy
	Describe issues and observations relating to whether the remedy is effective and functioning as design Begin with a brief statement of what the remedy is to accomplish (i.e., to contain contaminant plume, minimize infiltration and gas emission, etc.).
	Begin with a brief statement of what the remedy is to accomplish (i.e., to contain contaminant plume,
В.	Begin with a brief statement of what the remedy is to accomplish (i.e., to contain contaminant plume, minimize infiltration and gas emission, etc.). Remedy is in place to monitor migration of COCs downgradient and to evaluate if COC concentrations are declining (attenuating) and groundwater plumes are stable or decreasing. Concentrations of some COCs have not decreased as originally expected and continue to migrat In particular, selenium has been identified in southern property wells at concentrations above the MCL. In addition, remaining sources of COCs were identified during source area investigations. These could be contributing to ongoing COC detections. Additional remedies appear to be warranted to address remaining source areas and also COC behavior in groundwater. Pilot test and groundwater aquifer testing are being conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of a change in
В.	Begin with a brief statement of what the remedy is to accomplish (i.e., to contain contaminant plume, minimize infiltration and gas emission, etc.). Remedy is in place to monitor migration of COCs downgradient and to evaluate if COC concentrations are declining (attenuating) and groundwater plumes are stable or decreasing. Concentrations of some COCs have not decreased as originally expected and continue to migrat In particular, selenium has been identified in southern property wells at concentrations above the MCL. In addition, remaining sources of COCs were identified during source area investigations. These could be contributing to ongoing COC detections. Additional remedies appear to be warranted to address remaining source areas and also COC behavior in groundwater. Pilot test and groundwater aquifer testing are being conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of a change in the remedy.

C. Early Indicators of Potential Remedy Problems

Describe issues and observations such as unexpected changes in the cost or scope of O&M or a high frequency of unscheduled repairs, that suggest that the protectiveness of the remedy may be compromised in the future.

No issues identified with O&M

D. Opportunities for Optimization

Describe possible opportunities for optimization in monitoring tasks or the operation of the remedy.

PRP added additional water level monitoring points i.e transducers, and constructed additional monitoring wells to characterized COC distribution and optimize data collection.